



QURAN STORIES FOR KIDS

SANIYASNAIN KHAN



It is He who created me.
It is He who guides me;
He who gives me food and drink;
He who cures me when I am ill;
He who will cause me to die and bring me back to
life; and He who will, I hope, forgive me my faults
on the Day of Judgement.

(Al-Shu'ara' 26:78-82)

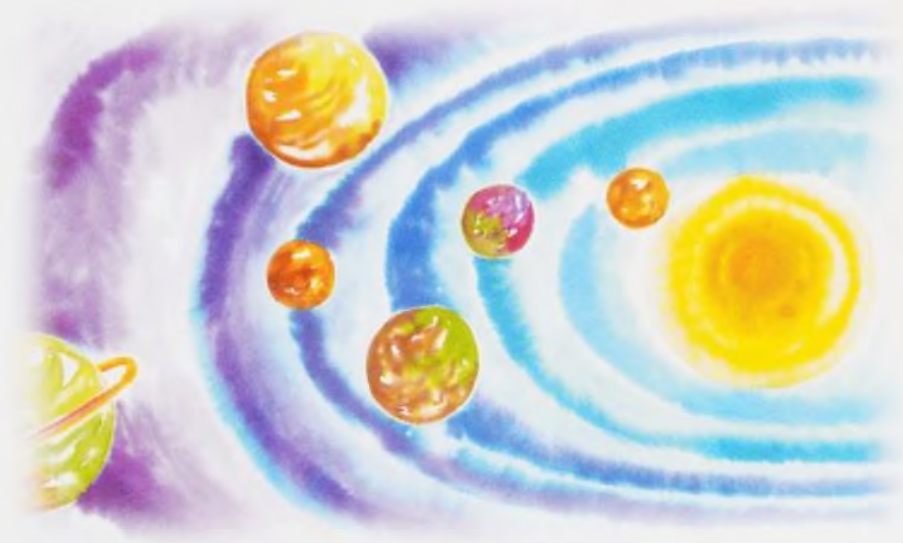


This book belongs to

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LIFE BEGINS



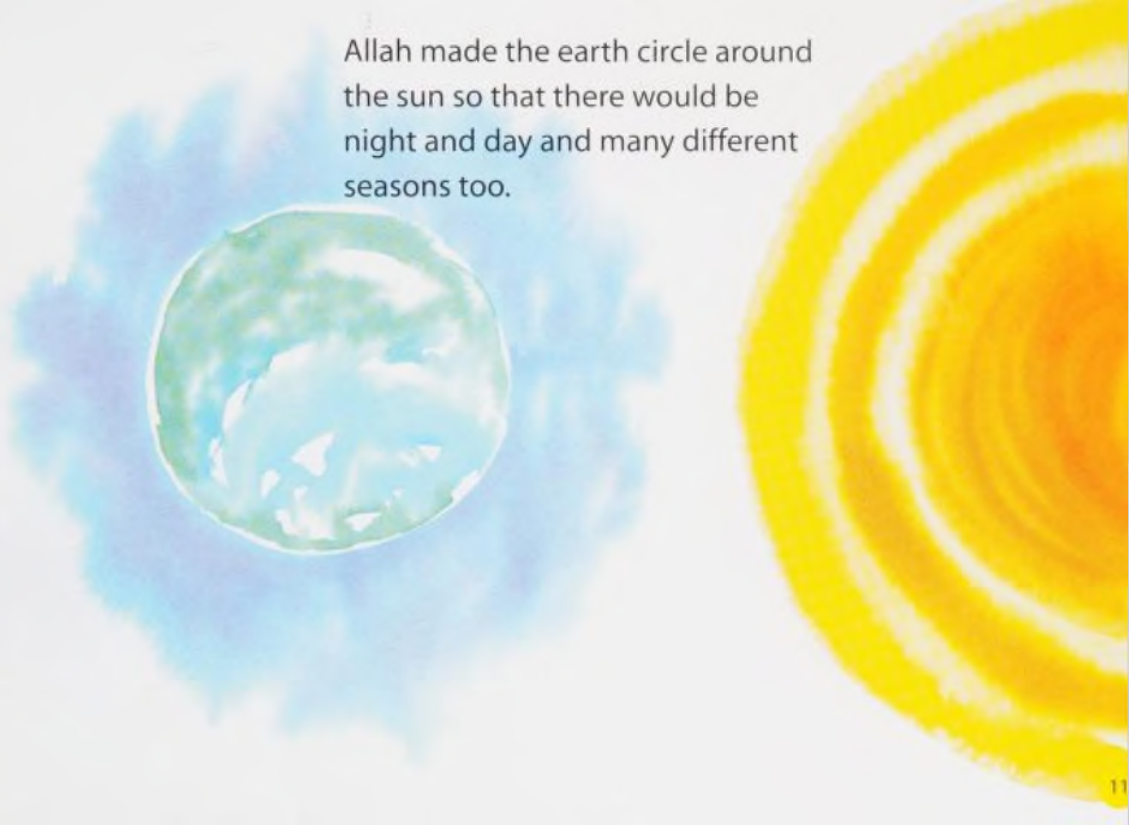
Then came the dry land and the oceans.
By just saying the words, Allah made them all.
Allah made the earth in two days. On it He placed
very big mountains.



In six days He formed the sky into seven heavens. The lowest heaven He hung with brilliant stars and sent bright comets flying between them.

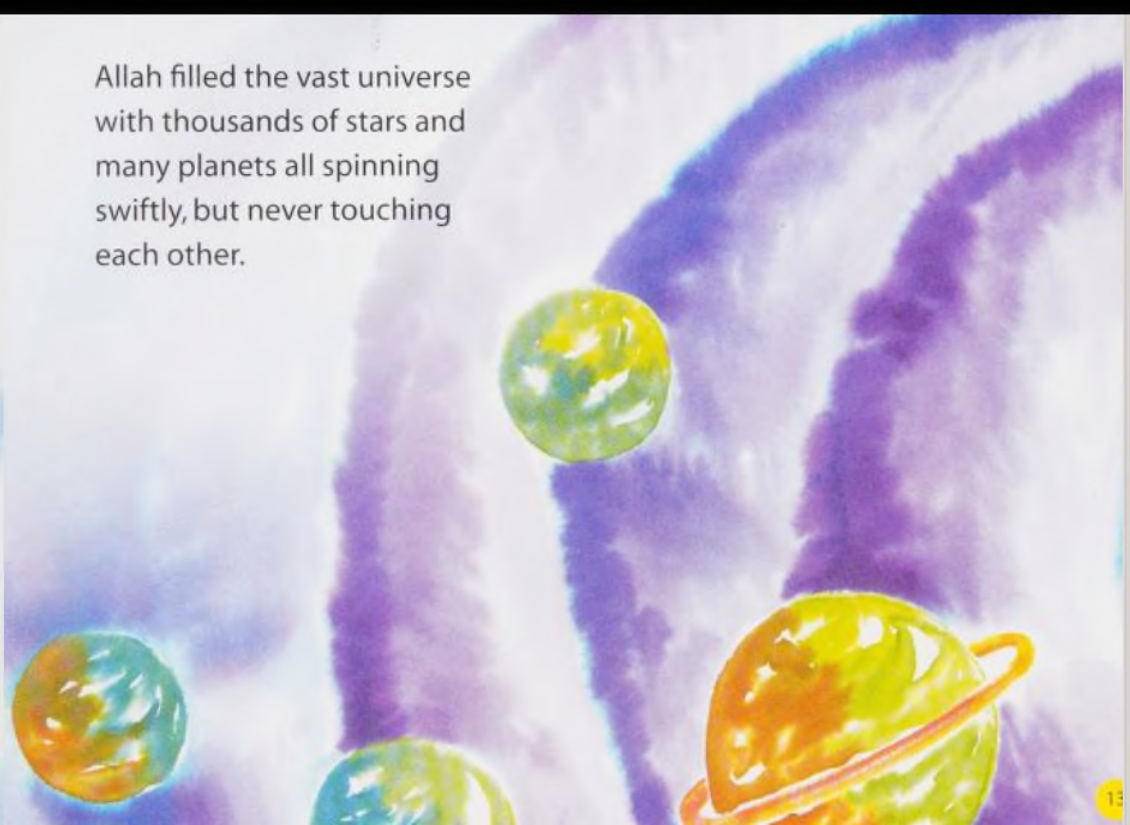


Allah made the earth circle around the sun so that there would be night and day and many different seasons too.





Allah filled the vast universe
with thousands of stars and
many planets all spinning
swiftly, but never touching
each other.



Allah made lovely flowers — roses and pansies, bluebells and lupins, hollyhocks and daisies. Where did the flowers come from? Allah made them all. He made all things large and tiny. Little insects and black ants that crawl around on the ground. And the busy bees that fly from flower to flower to collect sweet honey.



Allah made juicy fruits —
Mangoes, oranges and cherries,
crunchy apples, sweet grapes
and soft bananas. Where did the
fruits come from? Allah made
them all.





Allah made the animals. Some live in the forests. Large elephants, fat hippos, cunning foxes, fierce tigers, striped zebras and tall giraffes. Fluffy rabbits, strong horses, grazing cows and sheep — Allah made them all.





—Beautiful birds flying in the sky —
spreading their wings and closing
them. Green parrots, white ducks,
colourful chickens, flying sparrows,
dancing peacocks, singing quails,
diving kingfishers, warbling larks, and
many, many more. Where did they
all come from? Allah made them all.

Allah made the large oceans and the big seas which cover the earth with water and form into deep lakes and long rivers. Allah made the sea monsters and all the fishes big and small — large blue whales like mountains, and cruel tiger sharks with big jaws.



Allah made the crabs and lobsters and
shrimps, huge eels and octopuses,
swordfish and jelly fish, and all the many
ocean plants and animals.





Allah gave us rain and sunshine, cool breezes and clouds passing by. Thank You, Allah, for making such a wonderful world.



THE FIRST MAN

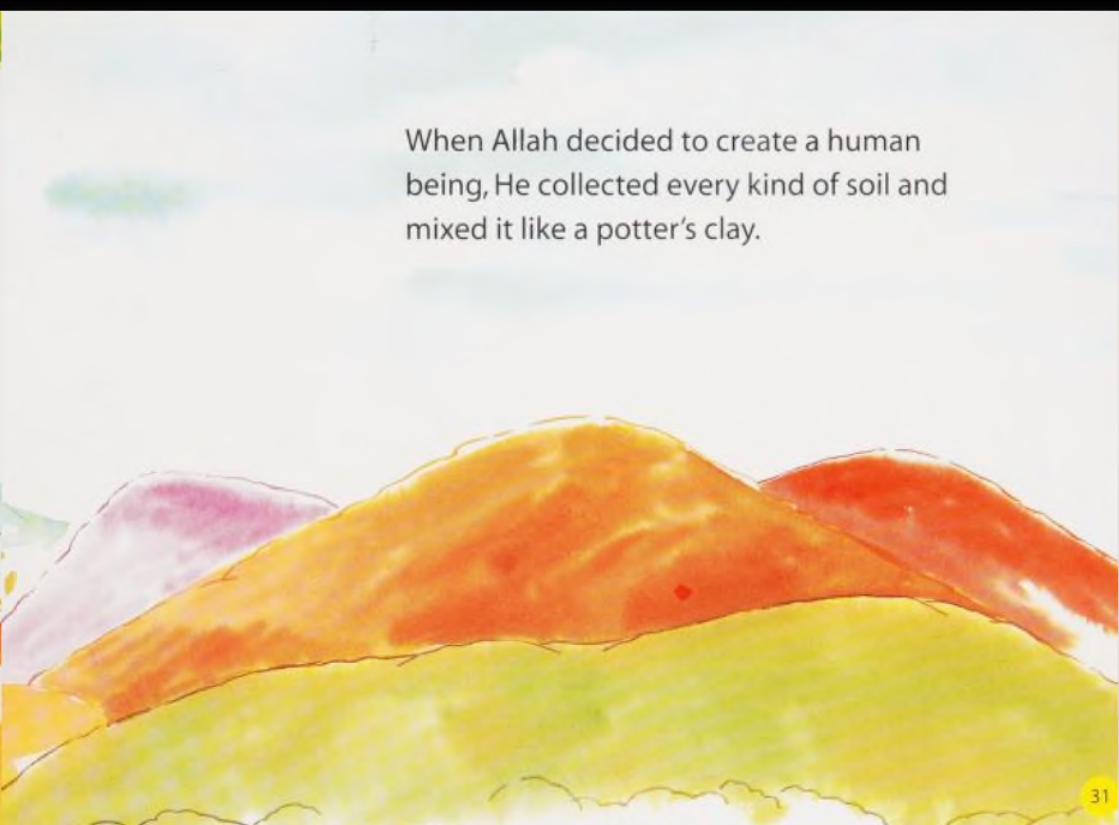


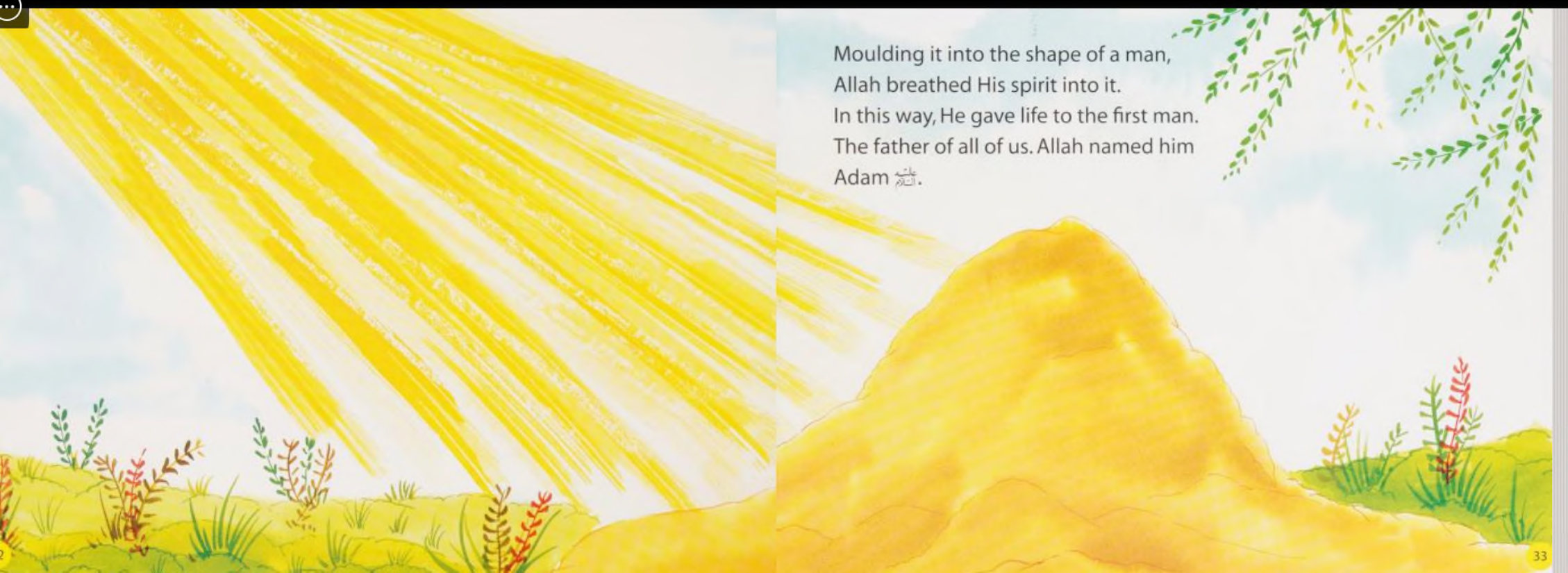
Long long ago, Allah created the beautiful universe, full of galaxies, planets, the moon, and stars all moving in harmony, all glorifying and praising Him.





When Allah decided to create a human being, He collected every kind of soil and mixed it like a potter's clay.





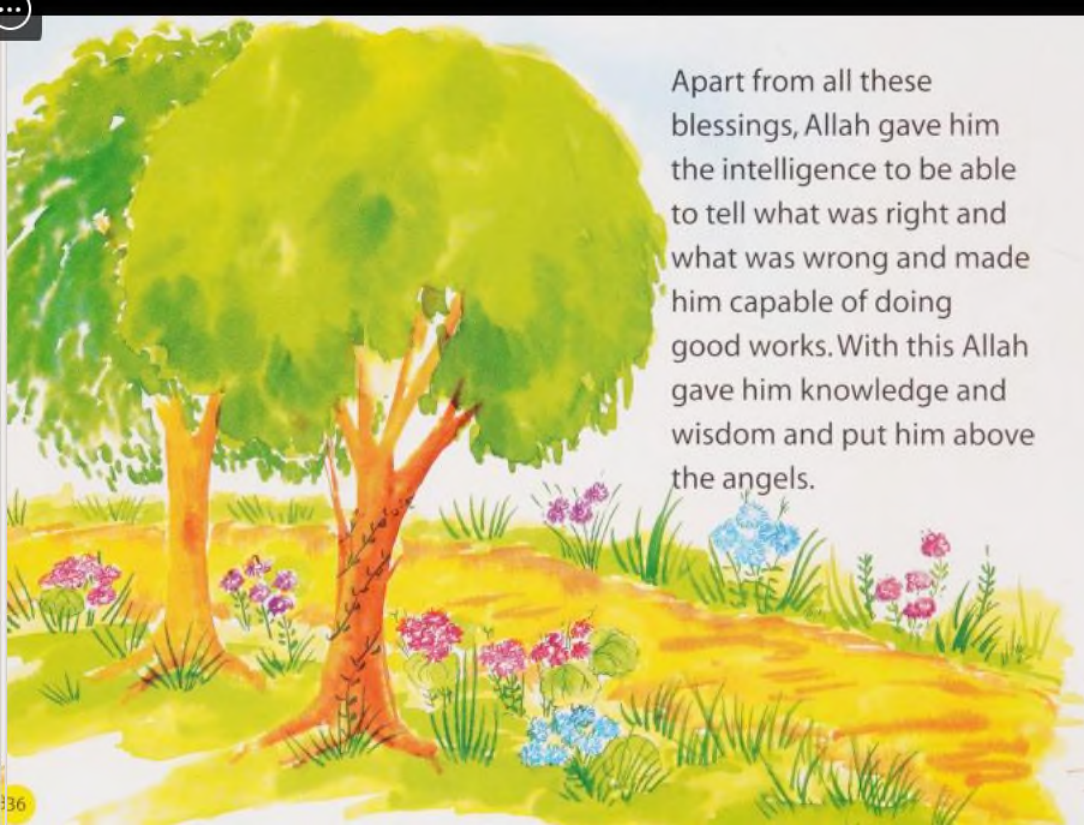
Moulding it into the shape of a man,
Allah breathed His spirit into it.
In this way, He gave life to the first man.
The father of all of us. Allah named him
Adam عَلَيْهِ السَّلَام.

Today, people may all be of different colours, shapes and sizes, speaking different languages and living in different places. But they all have the same ancestor—the first man, Adam عليه السلام. Allah made him the first prophet to guide people.



Allah bestowed many gifts upon Adam عليه السلام. He gave him the gift of sight so that he might marvel at the creation of Allah, and the senses of hearing, smell, taste and touch to help him understand the universe around him.





Apart from all these blessings, Allah gave him the intelligence to be able to tell what was right and what was wrong and made him capable of doing good works. With this Allah gave him knowledge and wisdom and put him above the angels.





Allah also created the first woman,
Hawwa (Eve) as a helper and loving
companion of Adam عليه السلام.



He told the couple to live in the garden
of Paradise, but warned them not to
approach a particular tree. Both of them
began living there in perfect peace
and happiness, with dazzling beauty all
around them.



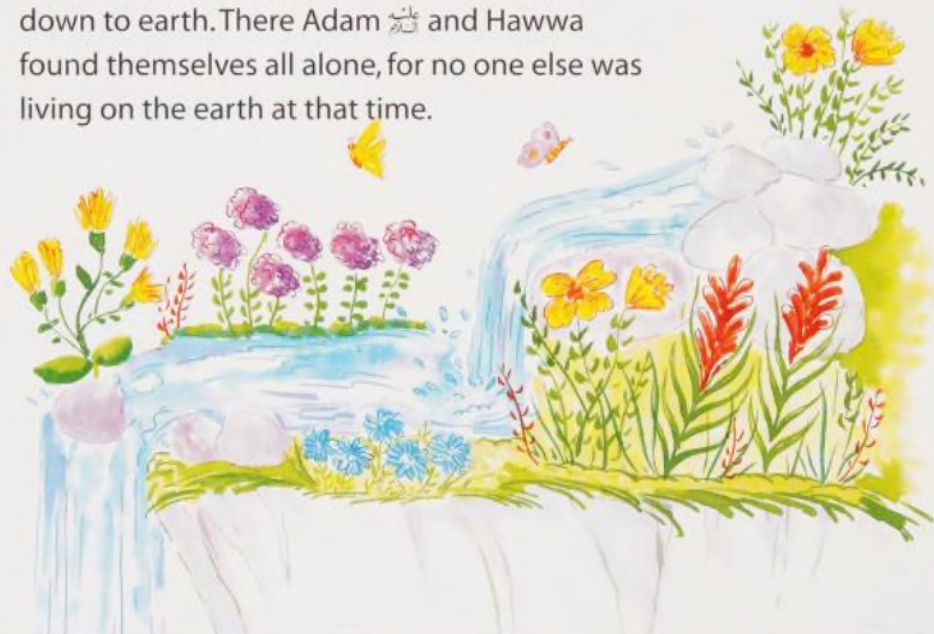
But Satan was jealous of them, seeing the honour they received from Allah. So one day, he came to Adam عليه السلام and his wife and whispered to them, tempting them to approach the forbidden tree. He told them that it was the tree of eternal life, and that if they ate from it, they would never grow old, nor would they ever die.



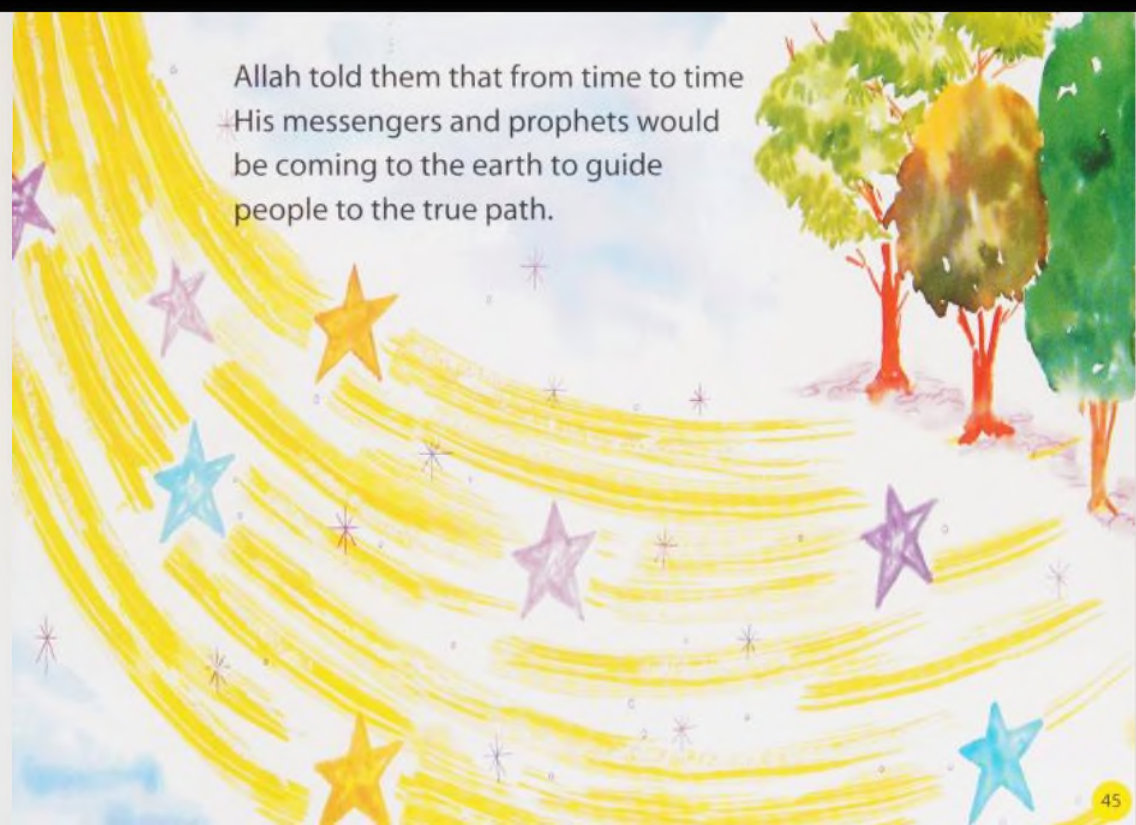
Satan made them believe that he was giving them very friendly advice, so they ate from the tree and became wrongdoers. But no sooner had they done so, than they realized their fault and immediately turned towards Allah to say how sorry they were.



Allah forgave them both, but told them that since they had defied His orders, they would have to leave the gardens of Paradise and go down to earth. There Adam ﷺ and Hawwa found themselves all alone, for no one else was living on the earth at that time.



Allah told them that from time to time His messengers and prophets would be coming to the earth to guide people to the true path.





Those who followed His directions and lived a good life would have no fear on the Judgement Day and would be admitted to Paradise. But those who disbelieved and rejected Allah's signs would be taken to task and thrown into the fire of Hell.



The story of the Prophet Adam عليه السلام teaches us that we have all been created by Allah, and that therefore, we are all equal. We should, then, respect each and every human being and never look down on others, or insult people. After all, we are all the children of one forefather—the Prophet Adam عليه السلام.

Find Out More

To know more about the message and meaning of Allah's words, look up the following parts of the Quran where the story of the Prophet Adam عليه السلام has been mentioned:

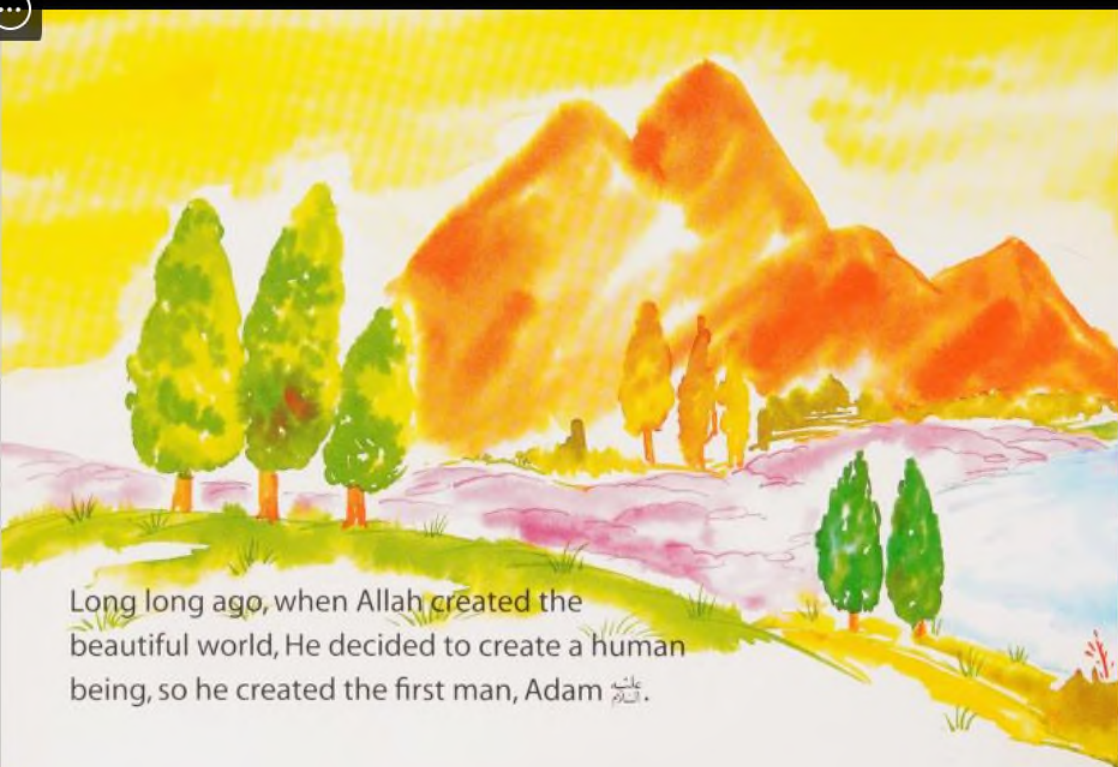
Surah Al Imran 2:30-38; Surah al-Maidah 5:27-32; Surah al-Araf 7:11-27; Surah Ta Ha 20:115-23; Surah Sad 38:71-85.

ﷺ Alayhis Salam 'May peace be upon him.' The customary blessings on the prophets.

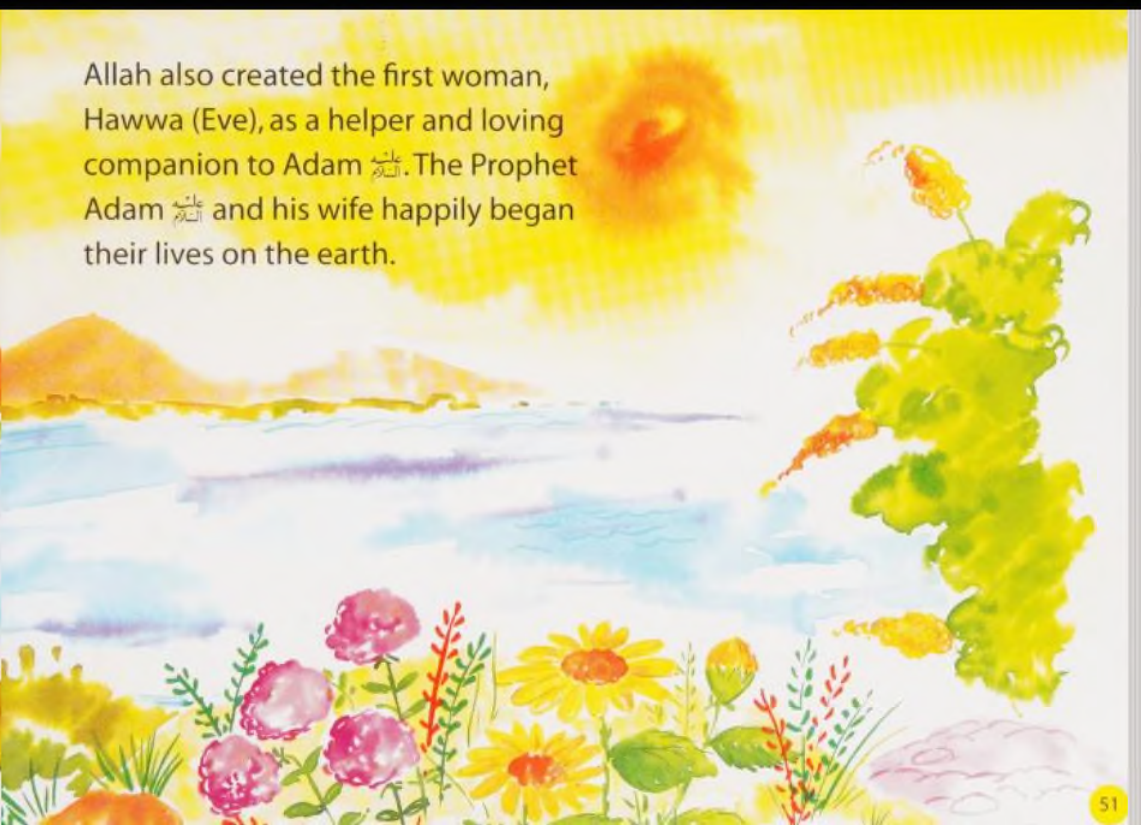


TWO BROTHERS

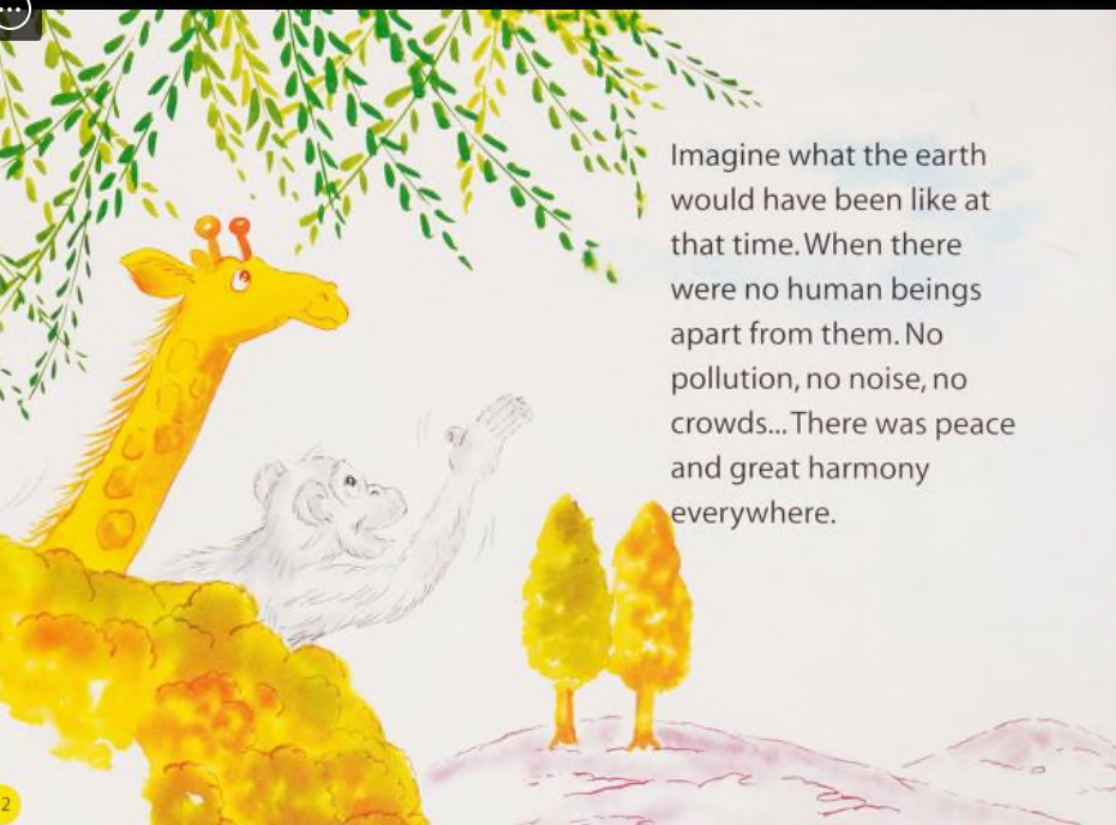




Long long ago, when Allah created the beautiful world, He decided to create a human being, so he created the first man, Adam عليه السلام.



Allah also created the first woman, Hawwa (Eve), as a helper and loving companion to Adam عليه السلام. The Prophet Adam عليه السلام and his wife happily began their lives on the earth.

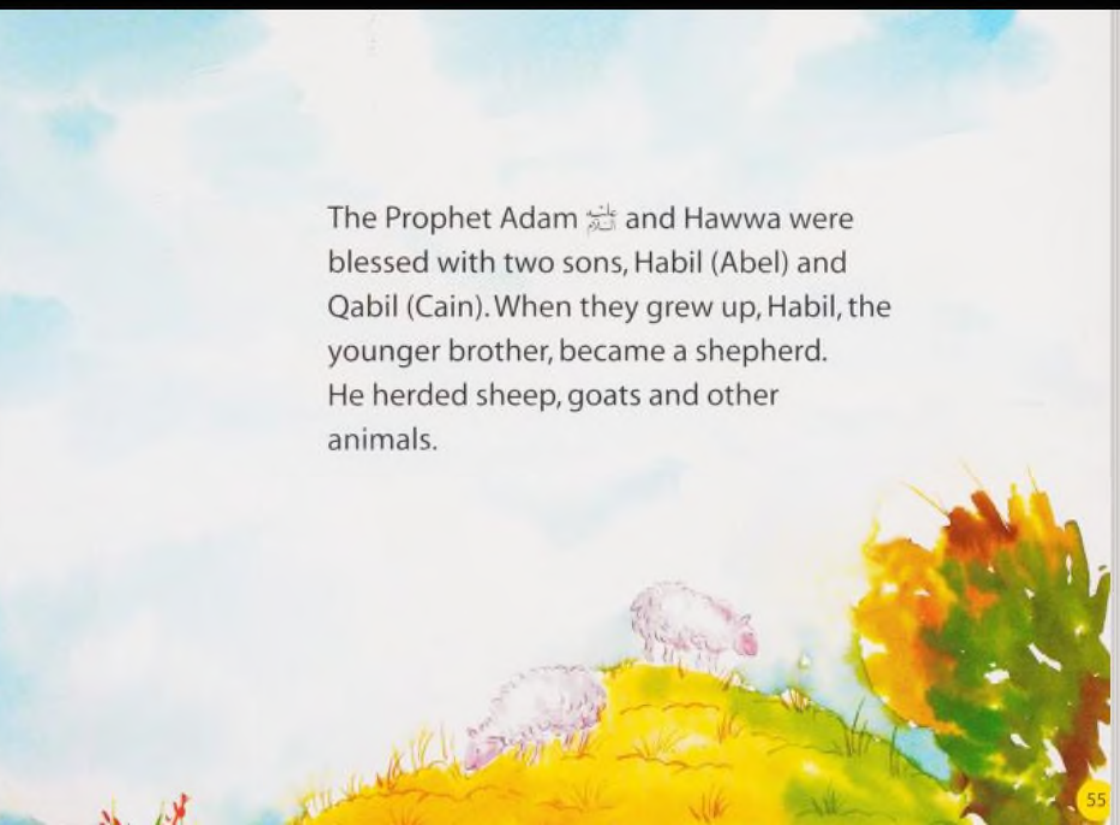


Imagine what the earth
would have been like at
that time. When there
were no human beings
apart from them. No
pollution, no noise, no
crowds... There was peace
and great harmony
everywhere.





The Prophet Adam ﷺ and Hawwa were blessed with two sons, Habil (Abel) and Qabil (Cain). When they grew up, Habil, the younger brother, became a shepherd. He herded sheep, goats and other animals.



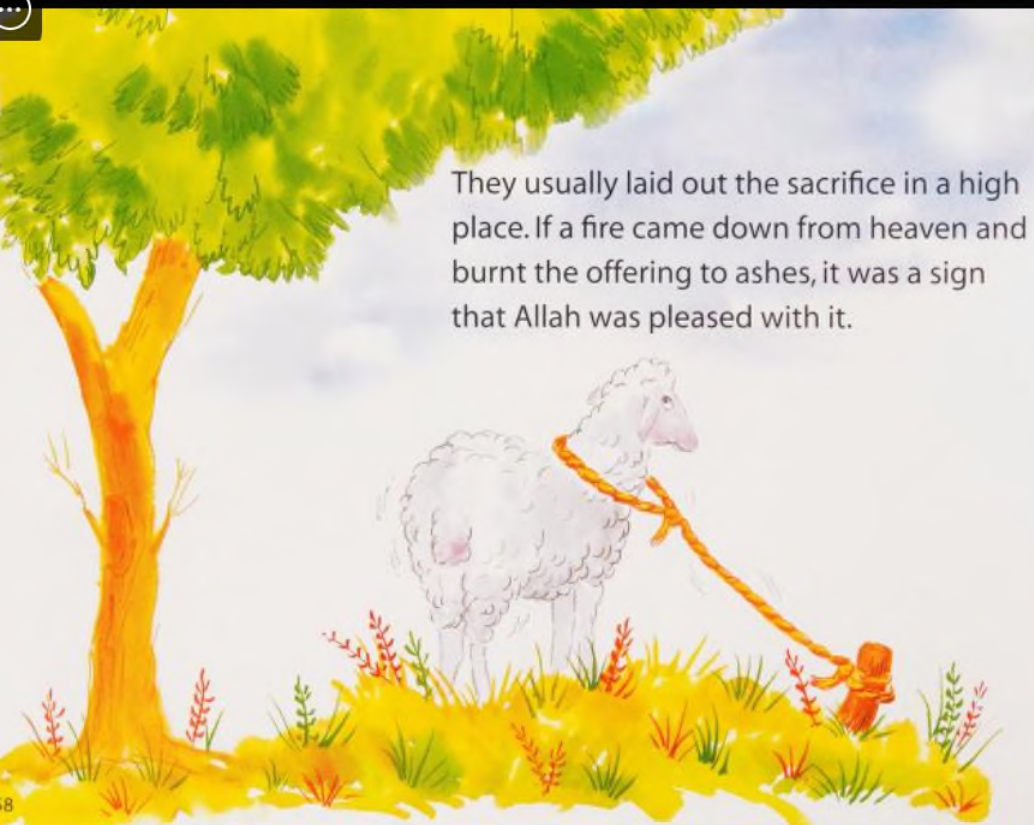
The elder brother, Qabil, worked as a farmer, tilling the fields.



One day both decided to make a sacrifice to please their Lord. Habil took the best of his flock, while Qabil brought his crops.



They usually laid out the sacrifice in a high place. If a fire came down from heaven and burnt the offering to ashes, it was a sign that Allah was pleased with it.



Suddenly a spark of light flashed and burnt Habil's offering to ashes. This showed that Allah accepted his sacrifice, but rejected Qabil's sacrifice.

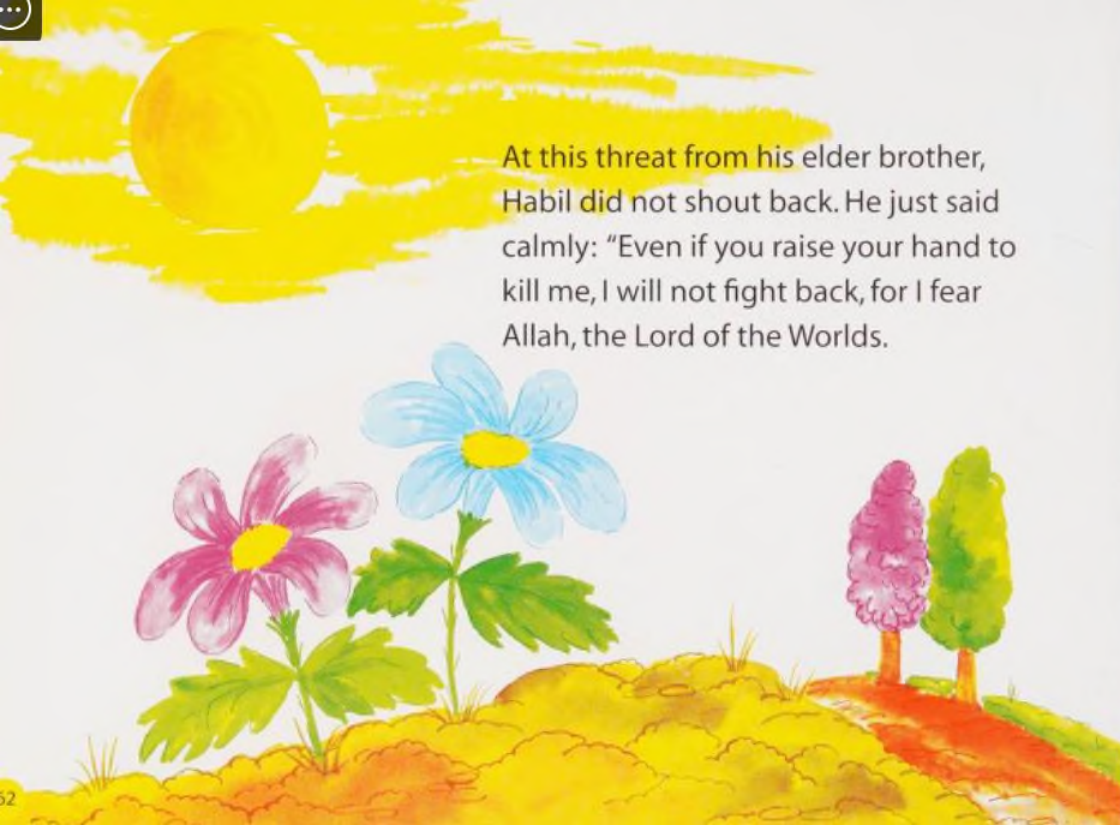


Qabil's failure made him hate and feel jealous of his younger brother. He felt it was Habil's fault that he was put to shame. Habil tried to explain to Qabil why his sacrifice had not been accepted: "In your heart you have no fear of Allah," Habil said to his brother. "That is why Allah did not accept your sacrifice."



"But, instead of agreeing and feeling sorry for his mistake, Qabil felt hurt at being disgraced and insulted. His face darkened with anger and his heart became hardened: "No," cried Qabil, "I will kill you!"





At this threat from his elder brother, Habil did not shout back. He just said calmly: "Even if you raise your hand to kill me, I will not fight back, for I fear Allah, the Lord of the Worlds.



"These fine words spoken by his younger brother could not calm Qabil, as he was blinded by jealousy and puffed up with arrogance and anger. Qabil's anger got the better of him and he killed his innocent brother Habil.



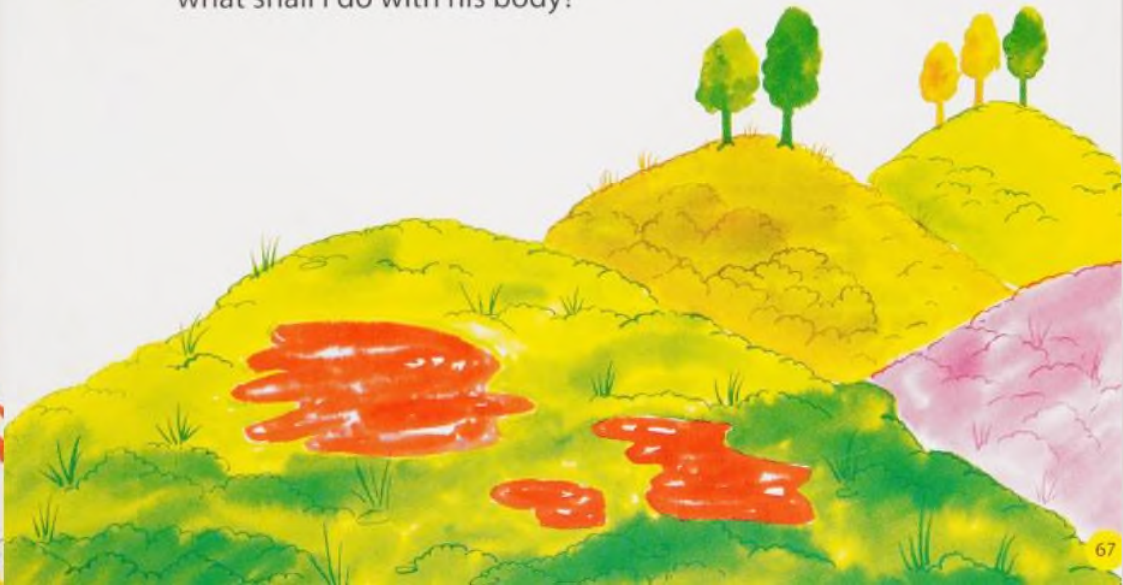
But no sooner had he done this horrifying deed than he began to change. Seeing the blood spilled all around the motionless body of his younger brother, Qabil's anger slowly cooled.



Now he realized what a big mistake he had made. He had acted in haste, he had done something vile, and now, thinking about it, he felt very sorry.



For hours he sat nearby, shamed and grief-stricken, looking down at his brother's mute, blood-spattered body: "Now I have killed my brother," said Qabil to himself in deep sorrow, "but what shall I do with his body?"





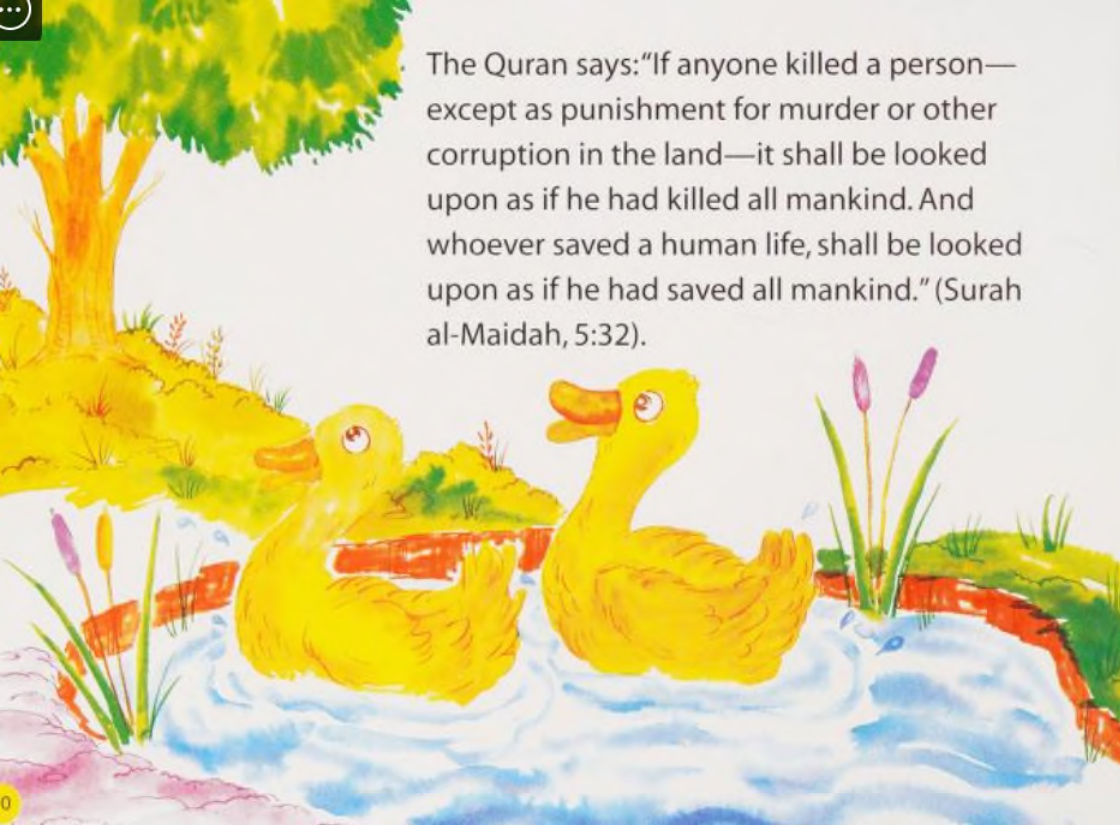
Then Allah sent a raven, which landed on the ground near the body. The raven began to scratch the ground to tell Qabil that he should bury his brother's dead body under the earth.



"Woe is me!" cried Qabil helplessly. "I am worse even than this raven, for I cannot hide my brother's corpse." Qabil felt his meanness all the more so, because even a raven could teach him a lesson. The moral of this story is that two believers should never fight with each other. Even if one of them is bent on fighting, the other one, like the obedient Habil, should never fight back.



The Quran says: "If anyone killed a person—except as punishment for murder or other corruption in the land—it shall be looked upon as if he had killed all mankind. And whoever saved a human life, shall be looked upon as if he had saved all mankind." (Surah al-Maidah, 5:32).



THE ARK OF NUH

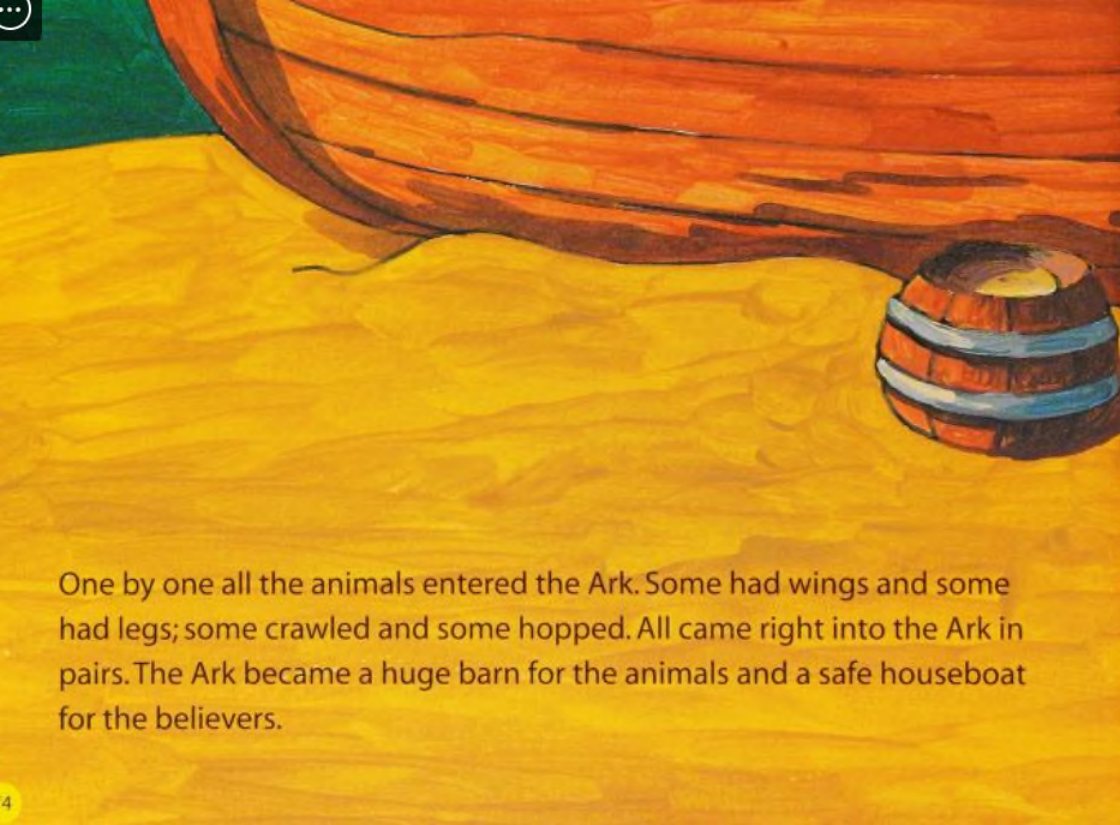
عليه
السلام



Long, long ago, there lived a pious old man whose name was Noah or Nuh عليه السلام. He was a Prophet of Allah. In those days people did not follow the true path. They did not worship Allah. So Allah sent Nuh عليه السلام to these people to give them the message of truth. But they all refused to accept his call. He tried his best for a very very long time, but no one, except for a few poor people, paid any heed to him. The rich people turned against Nuh عليه السلام and tried to harm him. So he prayed for Allah's help, and Allah heard his prayers and asked him to build an Ark. He told him that a great flood would come which would be a punishment for bad people. So Nuh عليه السلام started building a huge Ark with the help of a handful of believers. People laughed at them.

When the vessel was ready to sail after lots and lots of hard and tiring work, Nuh عليه السلام asked all the believers to go on board in the name of Allah. Allah told Nuh عليه السلام to bring along a male and a female of every kind of living creature as well. Nuh عليه السلام had to keep enough food to feed them all for a long time. This was a big job, but Nuh عليه السلام and his followers carried it out with all sincerity.

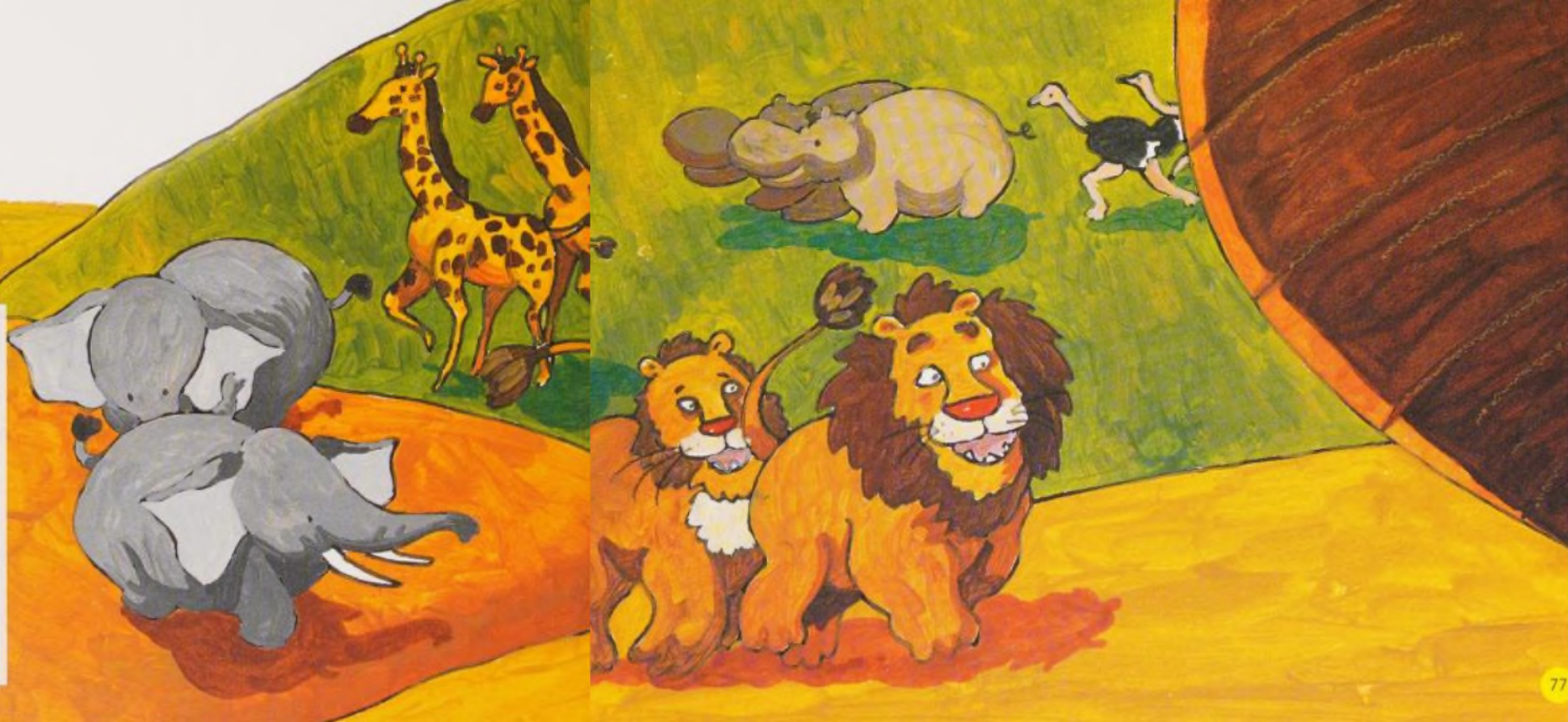




One by one all the animals entered the Ark. Some had wings and some had legs; some crawled and some hopped. All came right into the Ark in pairs. The Ark became a huge barn for the animals and a safe houseboat for the believers.



The animals came running—
giraffes and rhinos, elephants
and camels, monkeys and
wolves, cats and kangaroos,
bears and horses, cows and
sheep, lions and tigers—and
all went into the Ark in pairs.

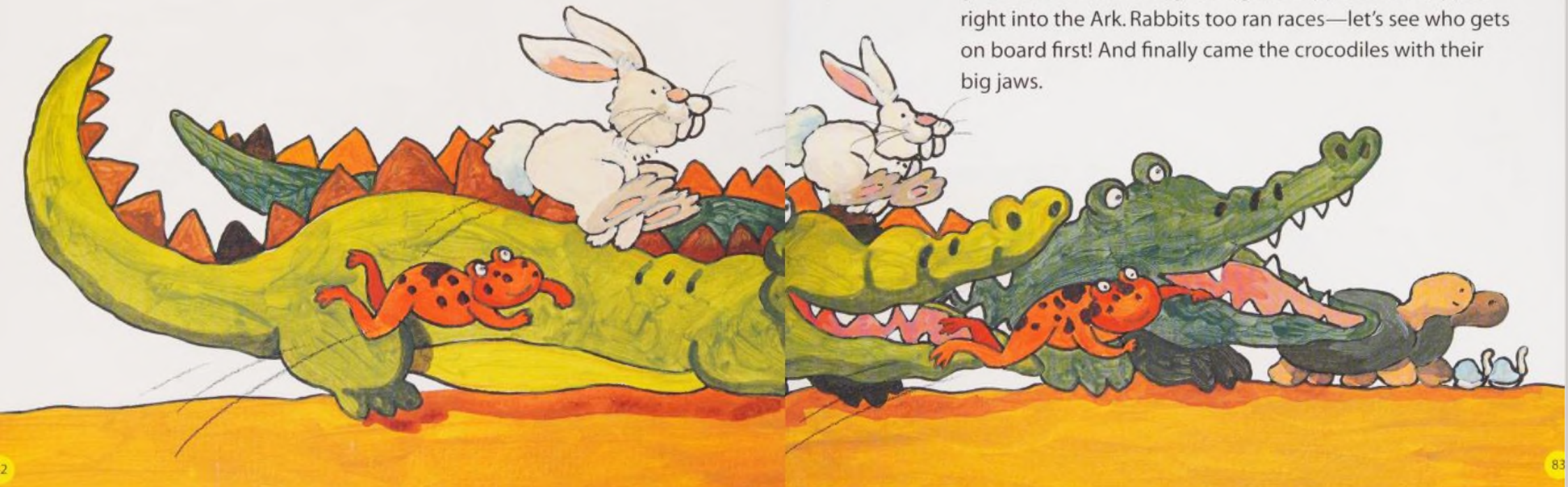


There were chickens and ducks, flamingos
and hawks, peacocks and pelicans, ostriches
and hens—to name but a few.

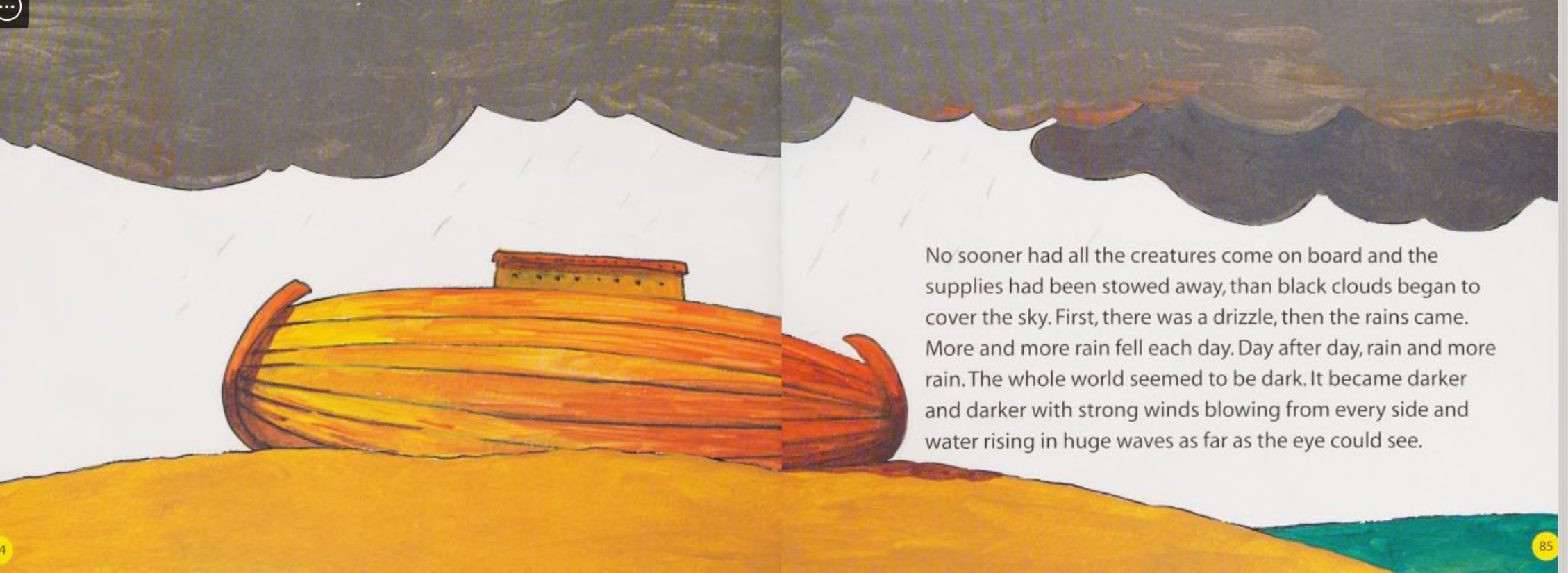


Birds both tiny and big that
flew high above the earth
came along too. All were
gathered in pairs and led on
board.

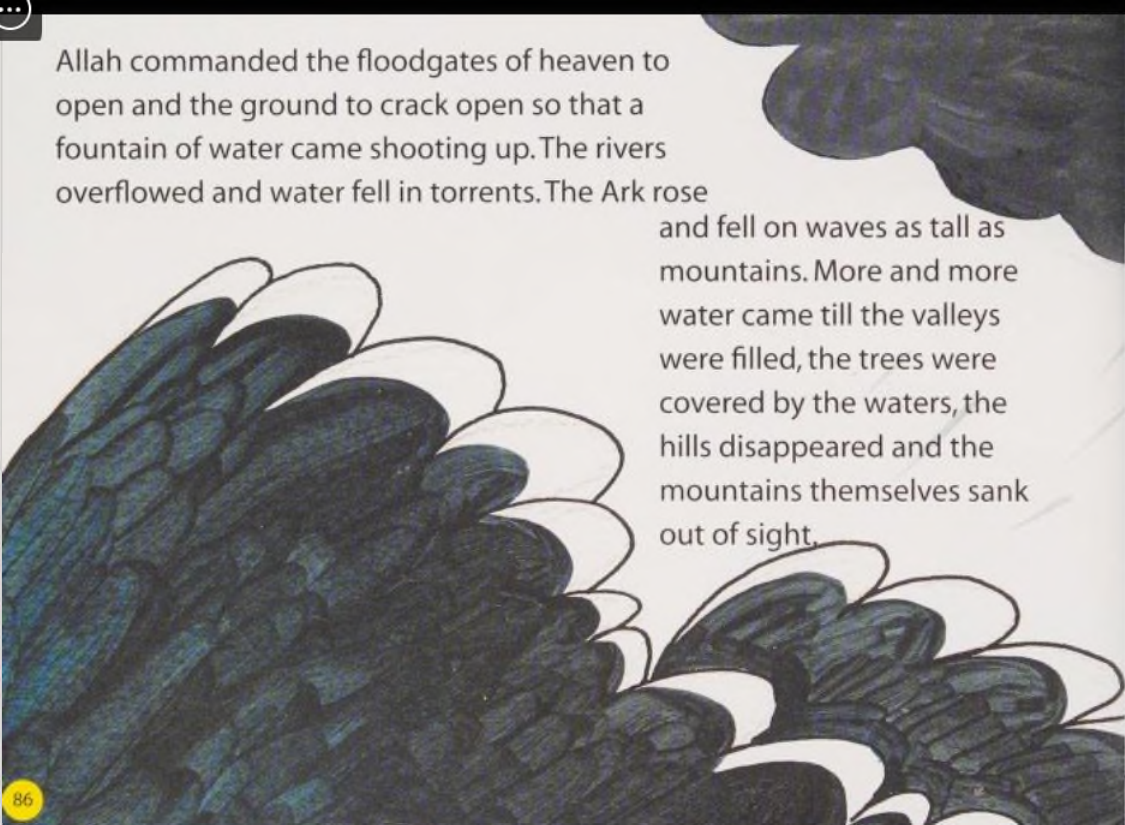




Tortoises, snails and turtles came crawling along the ground. Then came frogs and grasshoppers who hopped right into the Ark. Rabbits too ran races—let's see who gets on board first! And finally came the crocodiles with their big jaws.

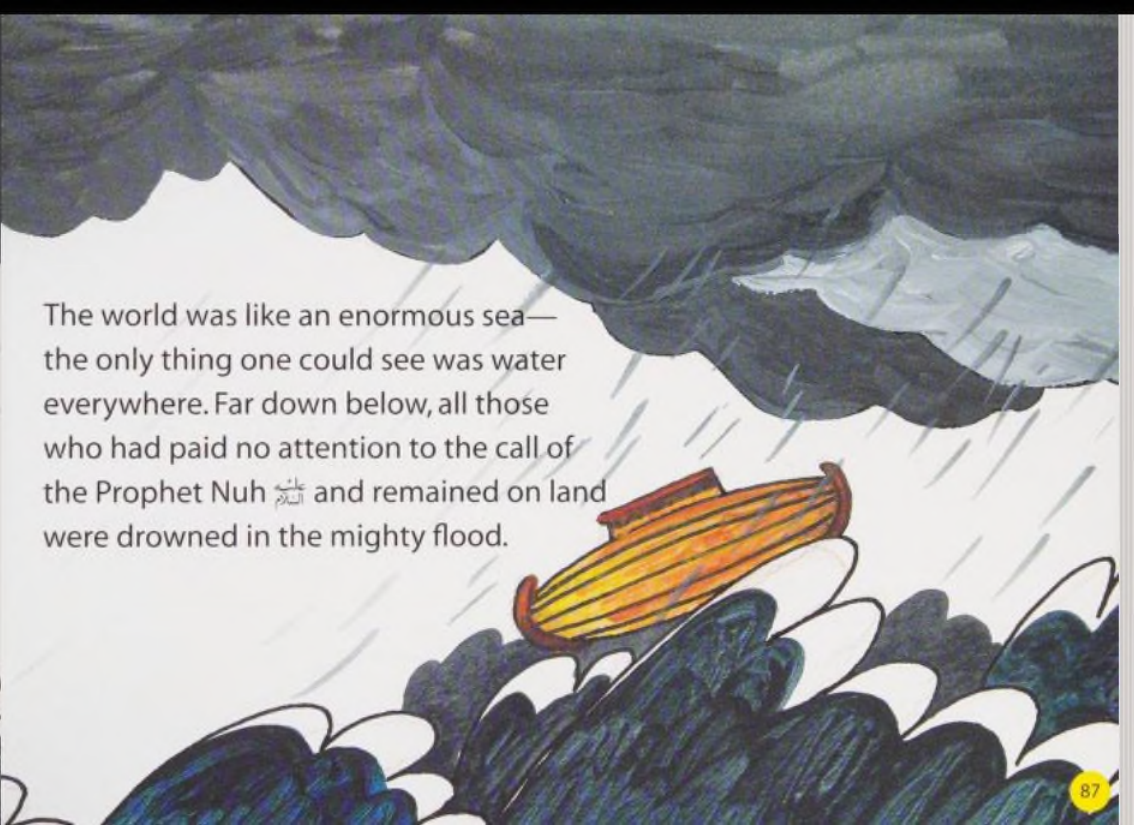


No sooner had all the creatures come on board and the supplies had been stowed away, than black clouds began to cover the sky. First, there was a drizzle, then the rains came. More and more rain fell each day. Day after day, rain and more rain. The whole world seemed to be dark. It became darker and darker with strong winds blowing from every side and water rising in huge waves as far as the eye could see.




Allah commanded the floodgates of heaven to open and the ground to crack open so that a fountain of water came shooting up. The rivers overflowed and water fell in torrents. The Ark rose

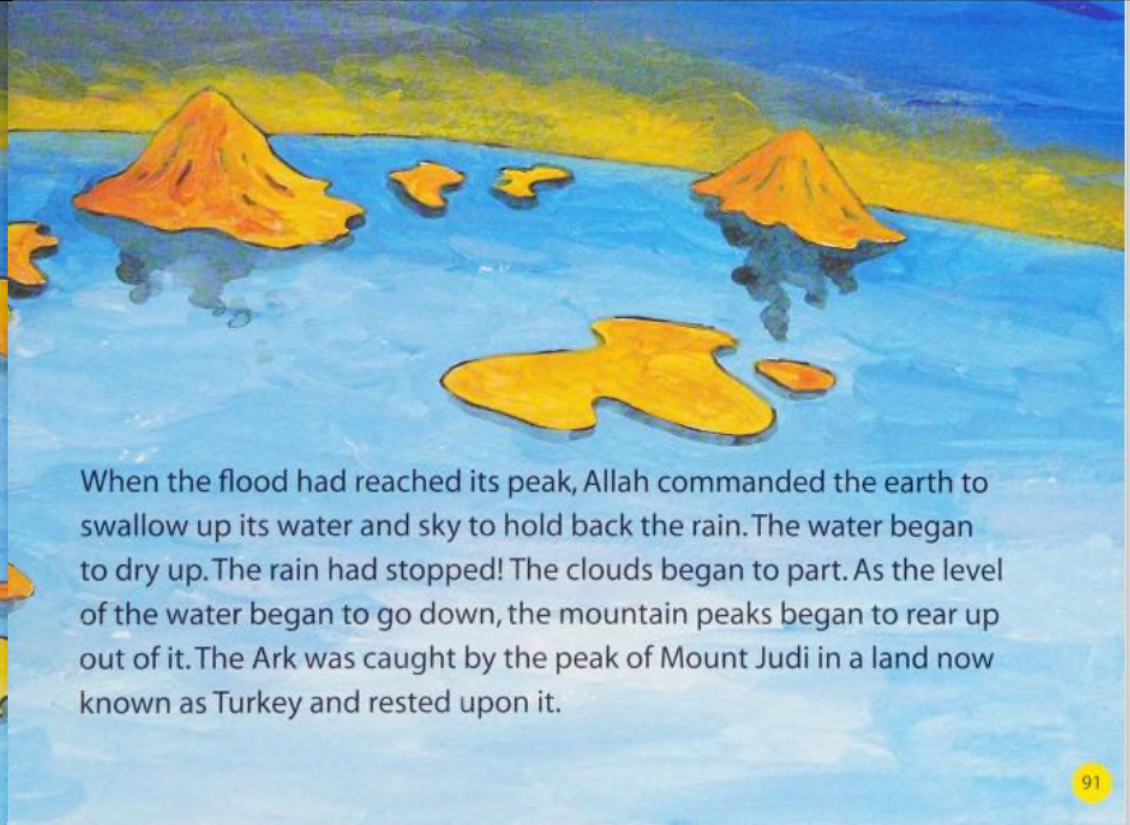
and fell on waves as tall as mountains. More and more water came till the valleys were filled, the trees were covered by the waters, the hills disappeared and the mountains themselves sank out of sight.



The world was like an enormous sea—the only thing one could see was water everywhere. Far down below, all those who had paid no attention to the call of the Prophet Nuh عليه السلام and remained on land were drowned in the mighty flood.



With the rain hammering on the roof and a great wind that roared all around, the Ark went on sailing amidst the waves. The thunder rolled and the lightning flashed from the angry skies. Everyone on board was very frightened, but Nuh عليه السلام kept praying to his Lord for His Mercy at this great moment of trial.



When the flood had reached its peak, Allah commanded the earth to swallow up its water and sky to hold back the rain. The water began to dry up. The rain had stopped! The clouds began to part. As the level of the water began to go down, the mountain peaks began to rear up out of it. The Ark was caught by the peak of Mount Judi in a land now known as Turkey and rested upon it.

The Prophet Nuh عليه السلام and the believers who were with him thanked Allah for saving them from such a devastating flood. Everyone happily came out of the Ark. The animals were led to safety. Nuh عليه السلام prayed: "Lord, let my landing from this Ark be blessed, for You alone can make me land in safety."





In this way Allah made the flood
and the Ark of Nuh عليه السلام a sign and a
warning for future generations.

Find Out More

To know more about the message and meaning of Allah's
words, look up the following parts of the Quran which
tell the story of the Prophet Nuh عليه السلام: Surah Nuh - 71

عليه السلام Alayhis Salam 'May peace be upon him.'
The customary blessing on the prophets.



ALLAH'S BEST FRIEND



Long long ago, about 4000 years ago, in the faraway land of Iraq, a child whose name was Ibrahim عليه السلام (or Abraham) was born in the village of Ur.

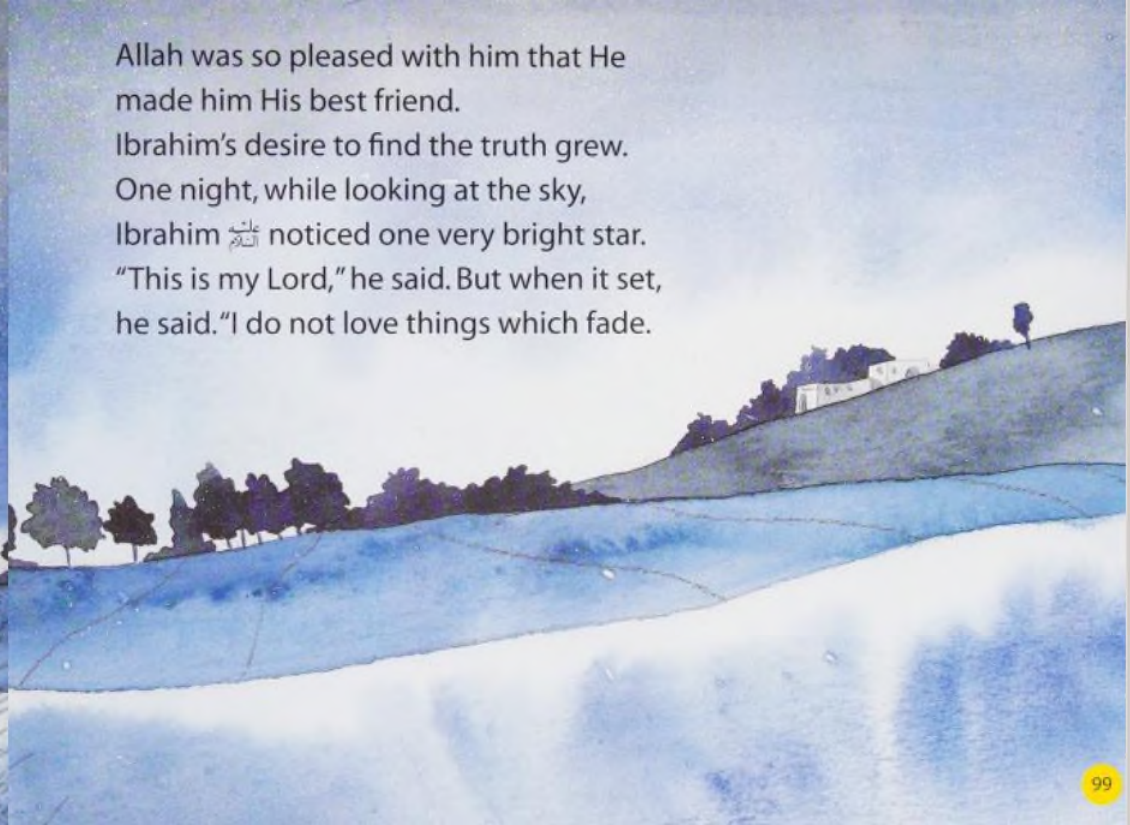


He was so gracious, tender-hearted and pure in faith that Allah gave him wisdom when he was still a child.



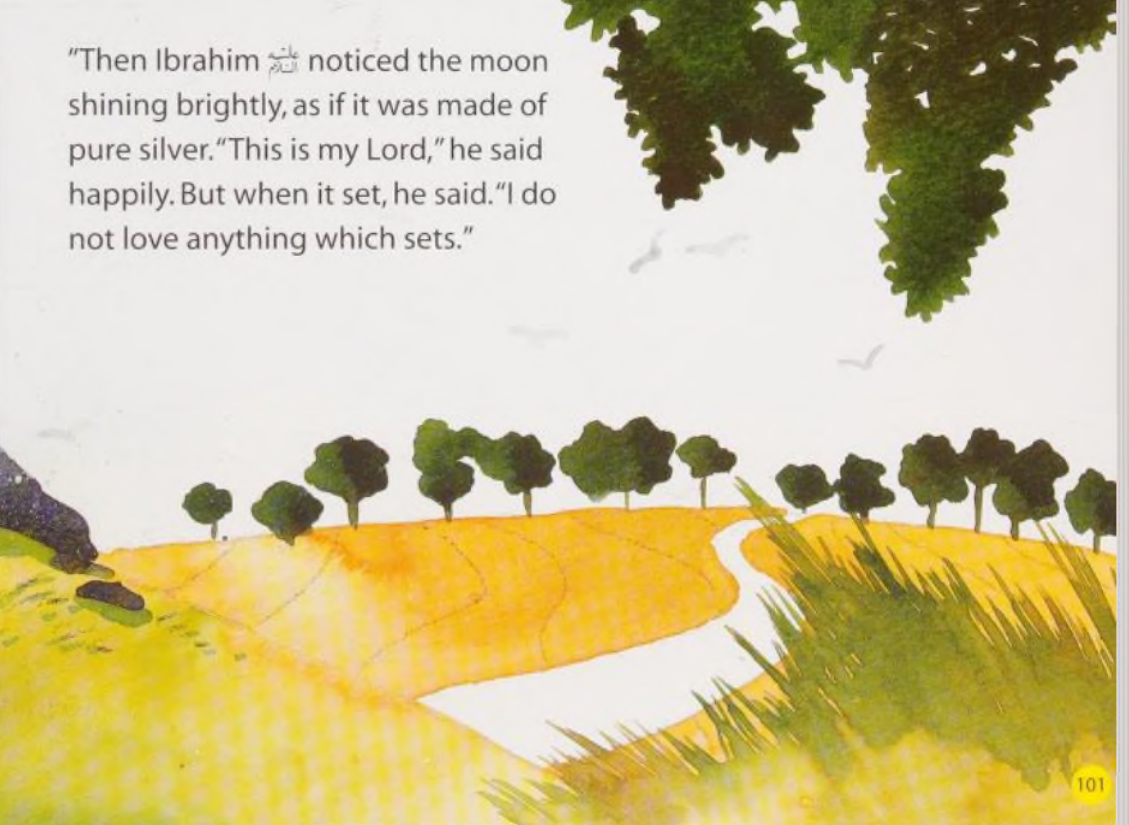


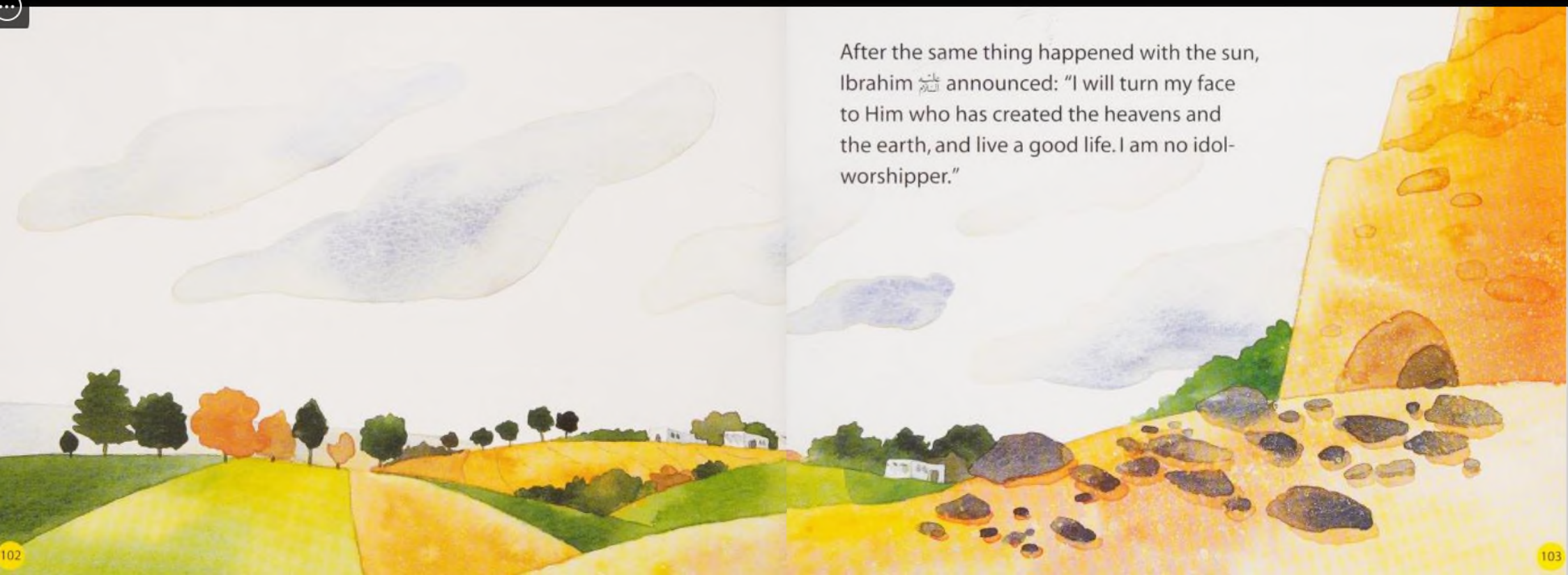
Allah was so pleased with him that He made him His best friend.
Ibrahim's desire to find the truth grew.
One night, while looking at the sky,
Ibrahim عليه السلام noticed one very bright star.
"This is my Lord," he said. But when it set,
he said, "I do not love things which fade.





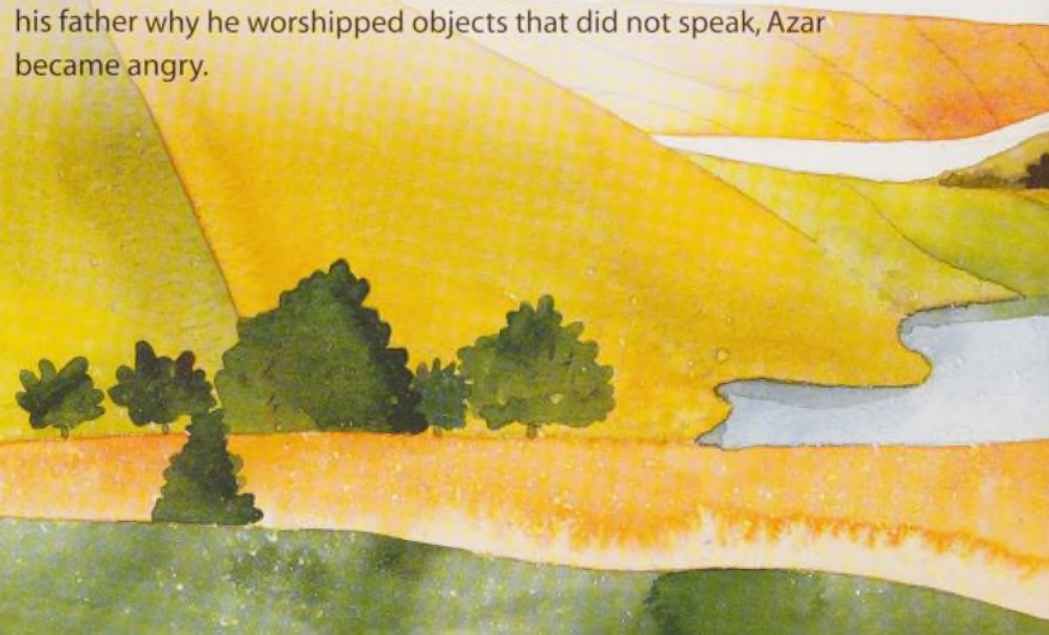
"Then Ibrahim عليه السلام noticed the moon shining brightly, as if it was made of pure silver." "This is my Lord," he said happily. But when it set, he said. "I do not love anything which sets."





After the same thing happened with the sun, Ibrahim عليه السلام announced: "I will turn my face to Him who has created the heavens and the earth, and live a good life. I am no idol-worshipper."

In the days of Ibrahim عليه السلام, people used to worship stones and statues, but even as a child he wondered why. Ibrahim's father, whose name was Azar, also believed in worshipping idols. When Ibrahim عليه السلام asked his father why he worshipped objects that did not speak, Azar became angry.



One day, when Azar and the other townspeople were away, Ibrahim عليه السلام took an axe and broke all the idols in the public temple except the biggest.

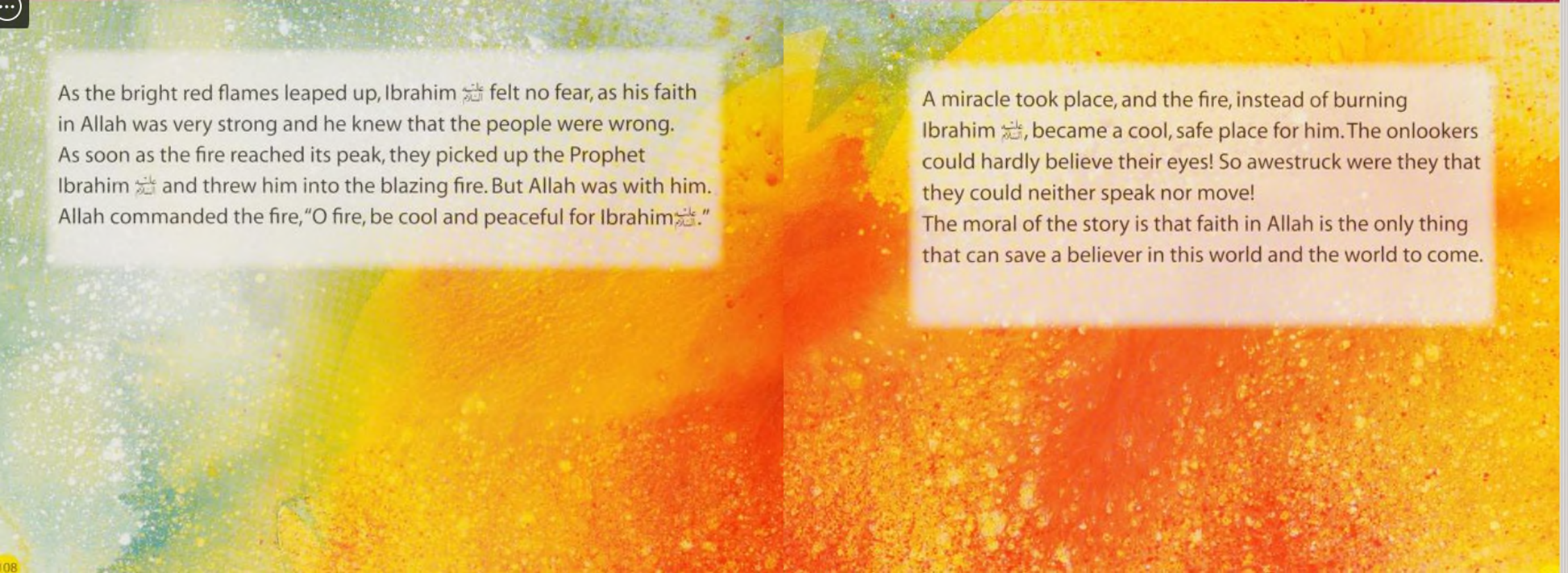


When people discovered this, they asked Ibrahim عليه السلام, "Who has done this?" "Ask the biggest idol," replied Ibrahim عليه السلام calmly. "Why do you worship things that cannot even talk, move or understand?" Unable to understand the Prophet Ibrahim's message, they were left speechless. They became furious, and tried to kill him.



They suggested that since this boy had insulted their gods, they should burn him alive. A huge heap of firewood was piled up and set alight. The people shouted and chanted aloud: "Death to Ibrahim! Burn him!" They thought that the burning of Ibrahim عليه السلام would cleanse their souls and protect them from harm.





As the bright red flames leaped up, Ibrahim عليه السلام felt no fear, as his faith in Allah was very strong and he knew that the people were wrong. As soon as the fire reached its peak, they picked up the Prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام and threw him into the blazing fire. But Allah was with him. Allah commanded the fire, "O fire, be cool and peaceful for Ibrahim عليه السلام."

A miracle took place, and the fire, instead of burning Ibrahim عليه السلام, became a cool, safe place for him. The onlookers could hardly believe their eyes! So awestruck were they that they could neither speak nor move! The moral of the story is that faith in Allah is the only thing that can save a believer in this world and the world to come.



Find Out More

To know more about the message and meaning of Allah's words, look up the following parts of the Quran which tell the story of the Prophet Ibrahim ﷺ: Surah al-An'am 6:74-80; Surah Maryam 19:41-50

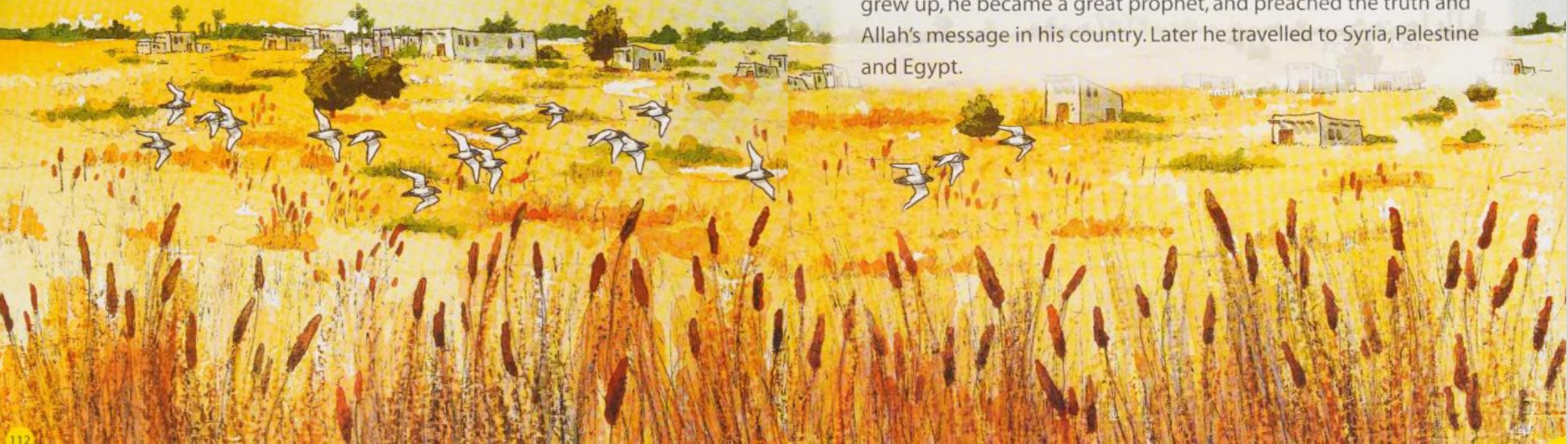
ﷺ Alayhis Salam 'May peace be upon him.' The customary blessings on the prophets.

TRAVELS OF THE PROPHET IBRAHIM عليه السلام

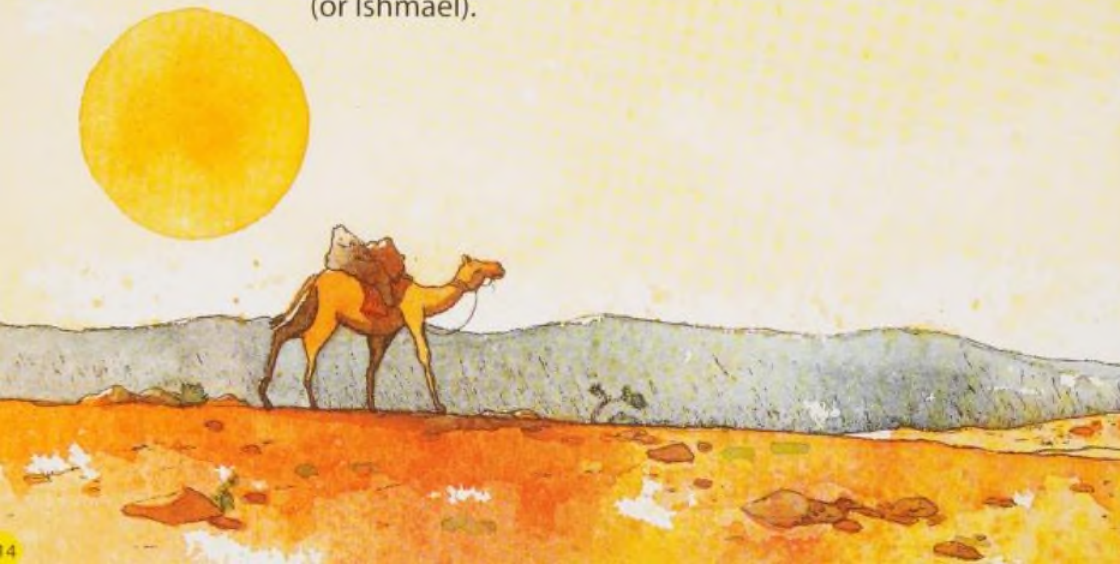


Long long ago, about 4000 years ago, in the land of Iraq a child was born whose name was Ibrahim ﷺ (or Abraham).

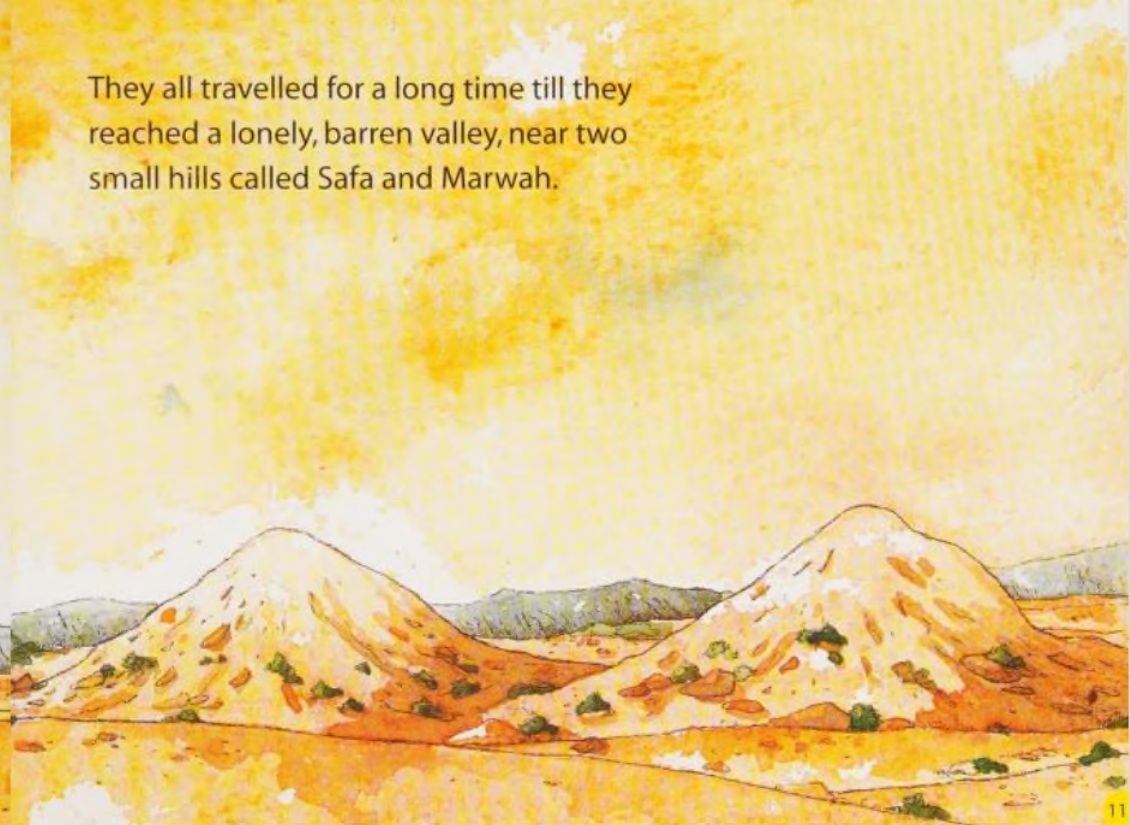
He was gracious, tender-hearted and pure in faith. Allah was pleased with him and made him His best friend. When Ibrahim ﷺ grew up, he became a great prophet, and preached the truth and Allah's message in his country. Later he travelled to Syria, Palestine and Egypt.



When a beautiful son was born to his wife, Hajar (or Hagar), Ibrahim عليه السلام was ordered by Allah to travel towards what we now know as Makkah along with his wife and the little child, whose name was Ismail عليه السلام (or Ishmael).




They all travelled for a long time till they reached a lonely, barren valley, near two small hills called Safa and Marwah.



The Prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام asked his wife to stay near one of the hills along with the baby Ismail عليه السلام, and started to go away. His wife protested, "Why are you leaving us alone here? Are you leaving us here to die?" But Ibrahim عليه السلام replied, "My Lord has commanded me to do this." Then Hajar, breathing a sigh of relief, said: "If Allah has ordered you to do so, then He will not let us die."



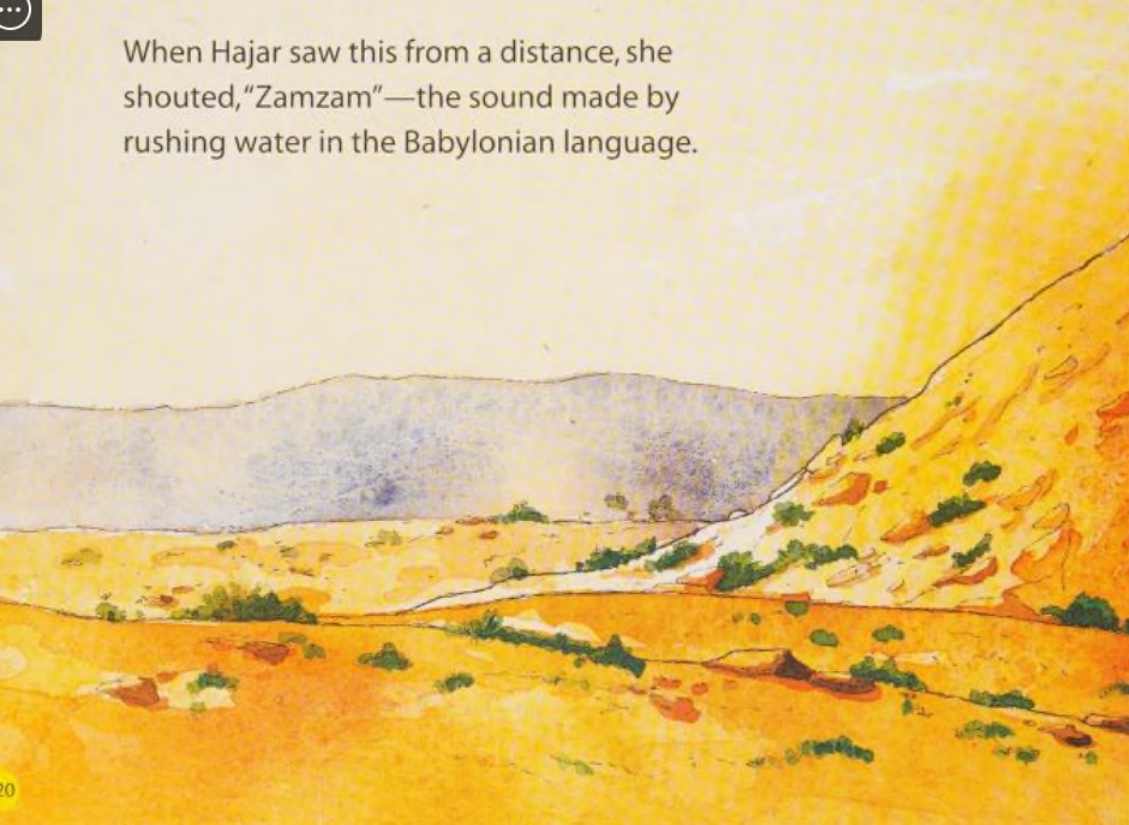


After a while, little Ismail began to cry because he was thirsty. But there was not a single drop of water to drink. Hajar ran helplessly from one hill to another, but there was no water, nor was there any human being nearby to give her any.

As the baby was crying desperately with thirst and the mother was running from one hill to another, Allah caused a miracle to take place — a spring gushed forth beneath the feet of Ismail عليه السلام.



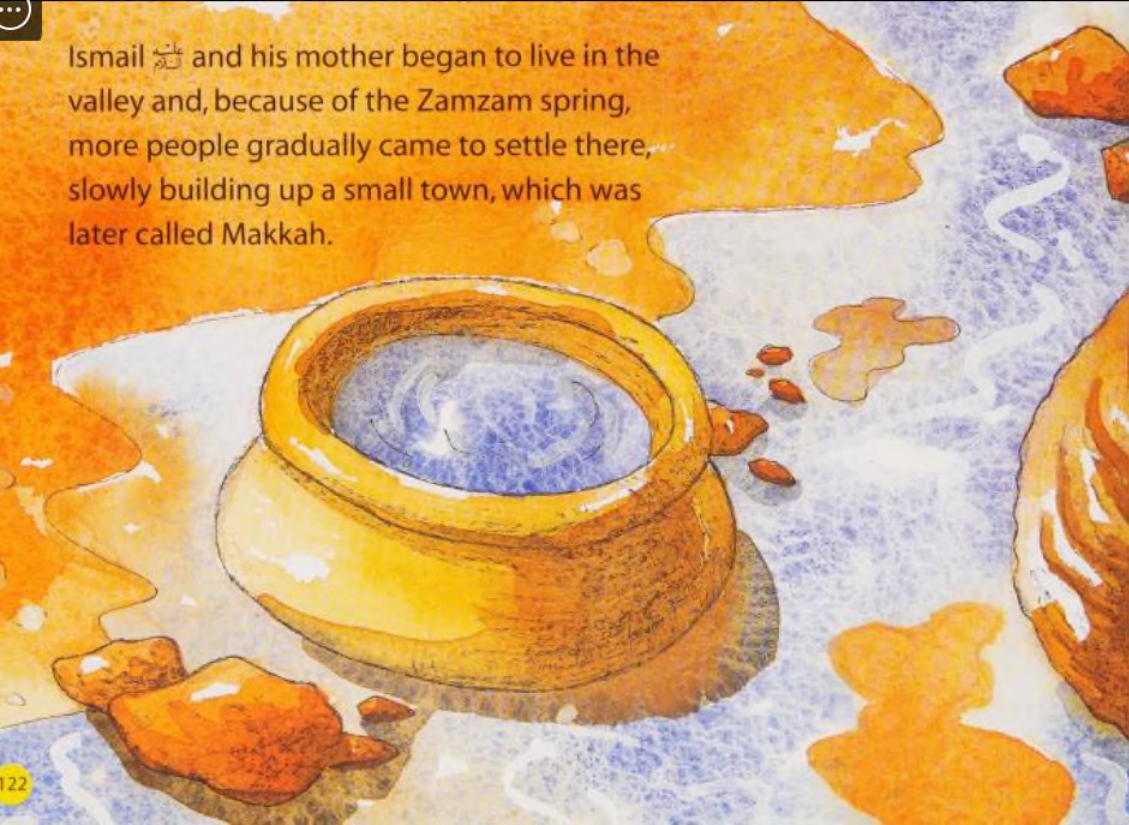
When Hajar saw this from a distance, she shouted, "Zamzam"—the sound made by rushing water in the Babylonian language.



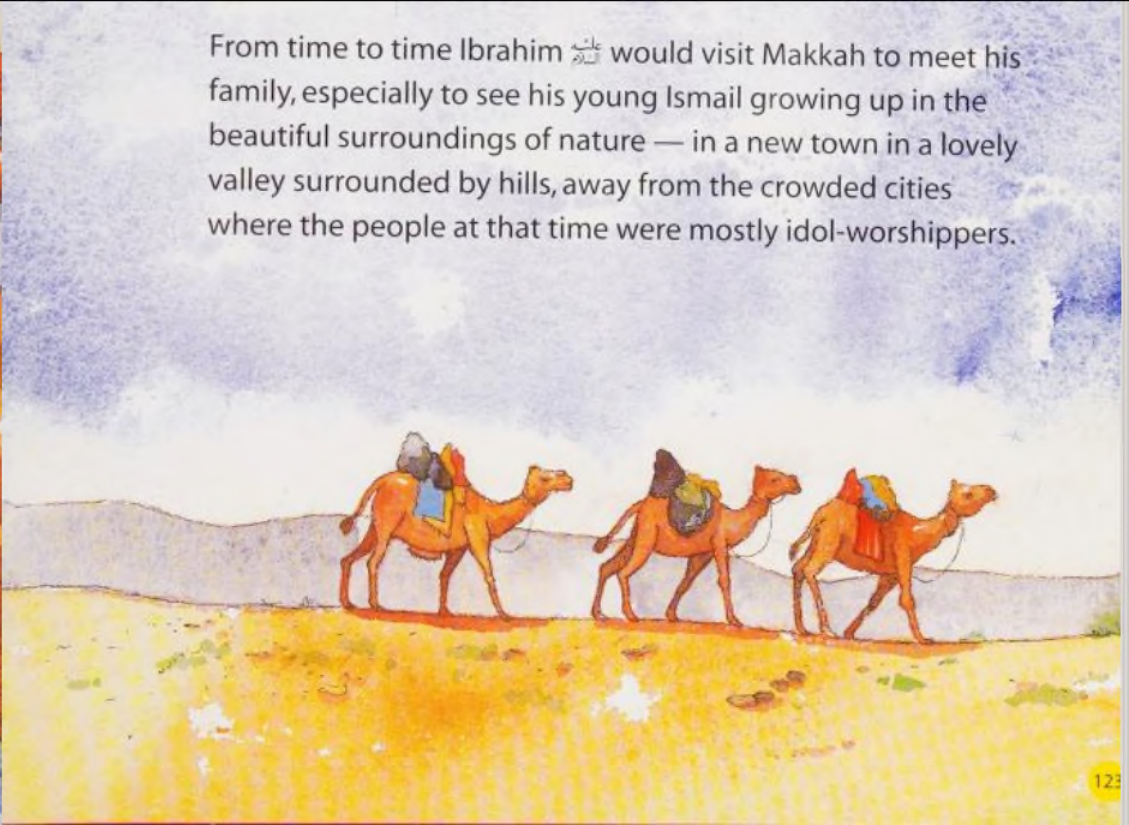
Hajar came running and gave some fresh spring water to the thirsty child to drink. And so his life was saved. This spring became famous later on and was called by the name of Zamzam.



Ismail عليه السلام and his mother began to live in the valley and, because of the Zamzam spring, more people gradually came to settle there, slowly building up a small town, which was later called Makkah.

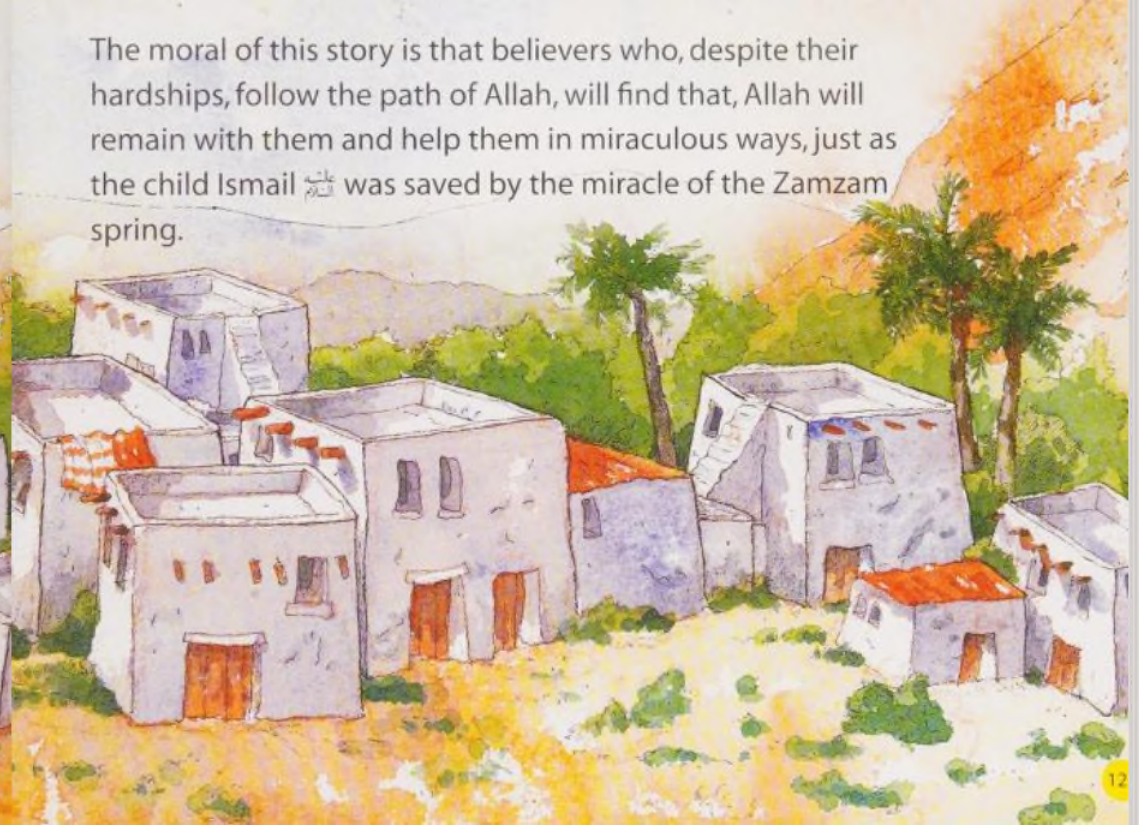


From time to time Ibrahim عليه السلام would visit Makkah to meet his family, especially to see his young Ismail growing up in the beautiful surroundings of nature — in a new town in a lovely valley surrounded by hills, away from the crowded cities where the people at that time were mostly idol-worshippers.





The moral of this story is that believers who, despite their hardships, follow the path of Allah, will find that, Allah will remain with them and help them in miraculous ways, just as the child Ismail عليه السلام was saved by the miracle of the Zamzam spring.





Find Out More

To know more about the message and meaning of Allah's words, look up the following parts of the Quran which tell the story of the Prophet Ibrahim ؑ:
Surah Ibrahim 14:36-41; Surah al-Ankabut 29:26-27

ﷺ Alayhis Salam 'May peace be upon him.' The customary blessings on the prophets."

THE BRAVE BOY





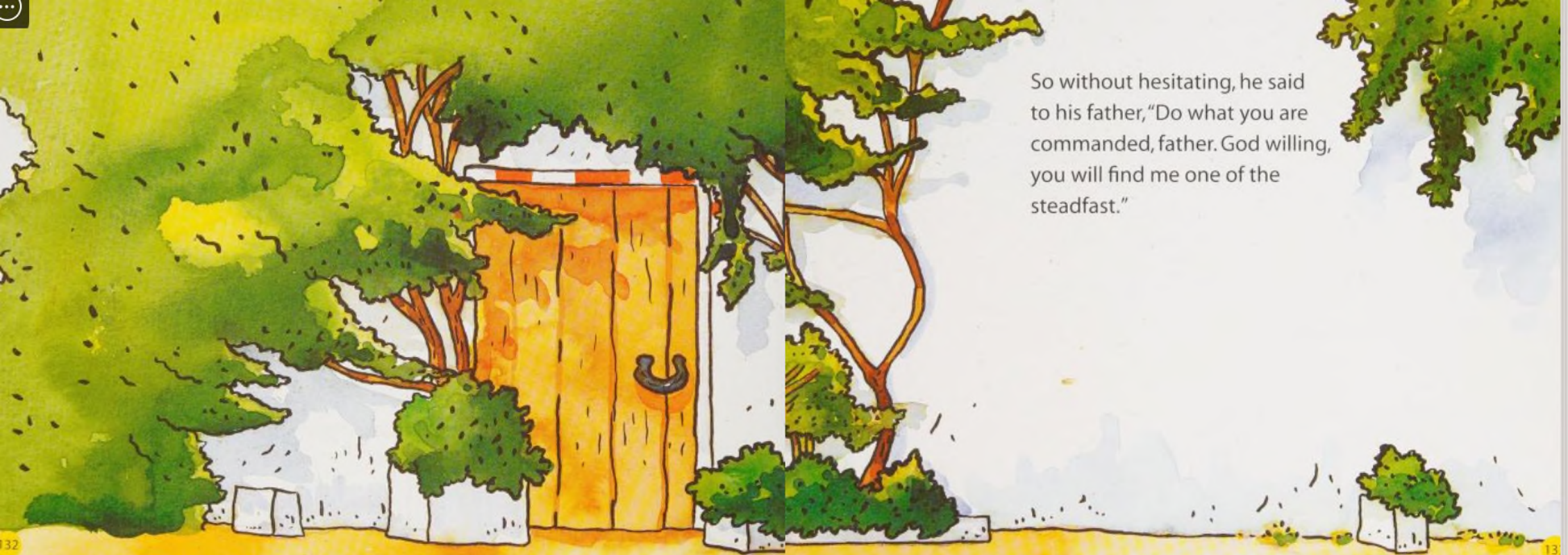
Long long ago, about 4000 years ago, there lived the Prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام (Abraham). He was gracious, tender-hearted and pure in faith.



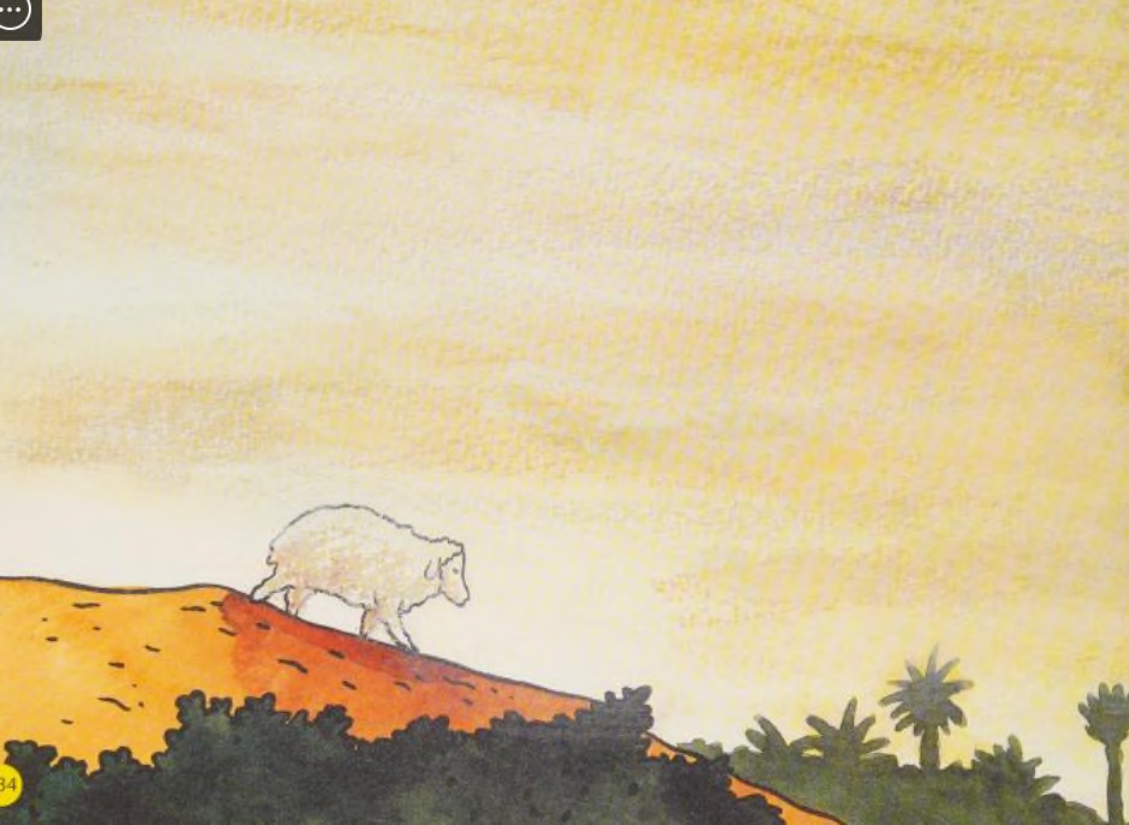
His family lived in a beautiful valley, which is now known as Makkah.



One night, the Prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام dreamt that he was sacrificing his son, Ismail عليه السلام. This was an order from his Lord. Ismail عليه السلام was still a child, but the Prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام told him about the dream. Ismail عليه السلام was a brave boy. He was ready to obey the command of Allah, who had created him.



So without hesitating, he said to his father, "Do what you are commanded, father. God willing, you will find me one of the steadfast."

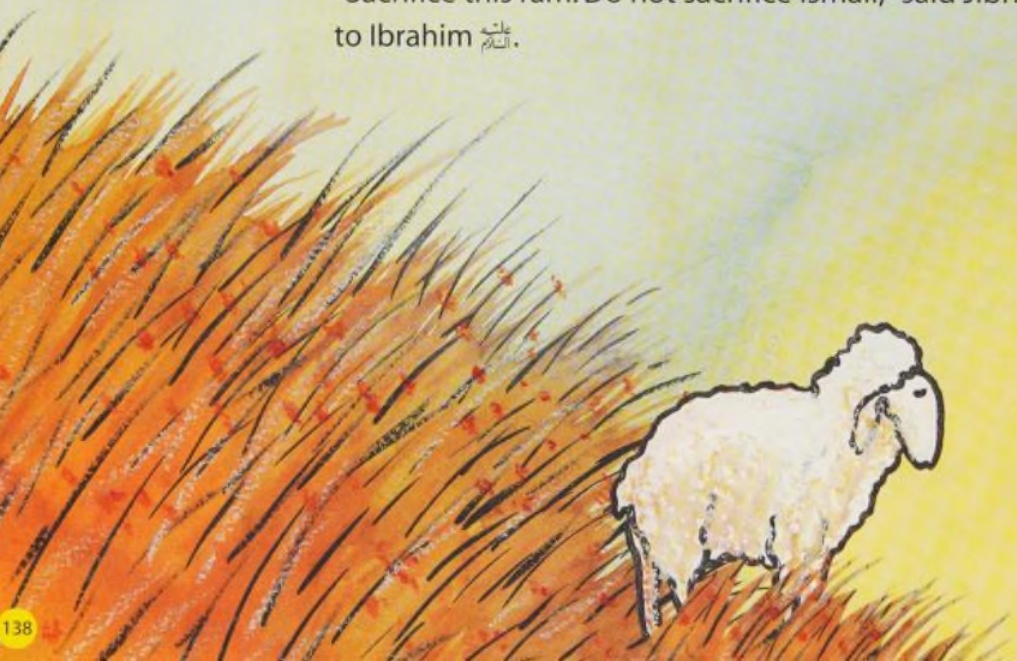


Ibrahim عليه السلام took his son away to sacrifice him. As he reached a place, which is now known as Mina—a valley near Makkah—Satan appeared and tried to stop him from doing his Lord's bidding.

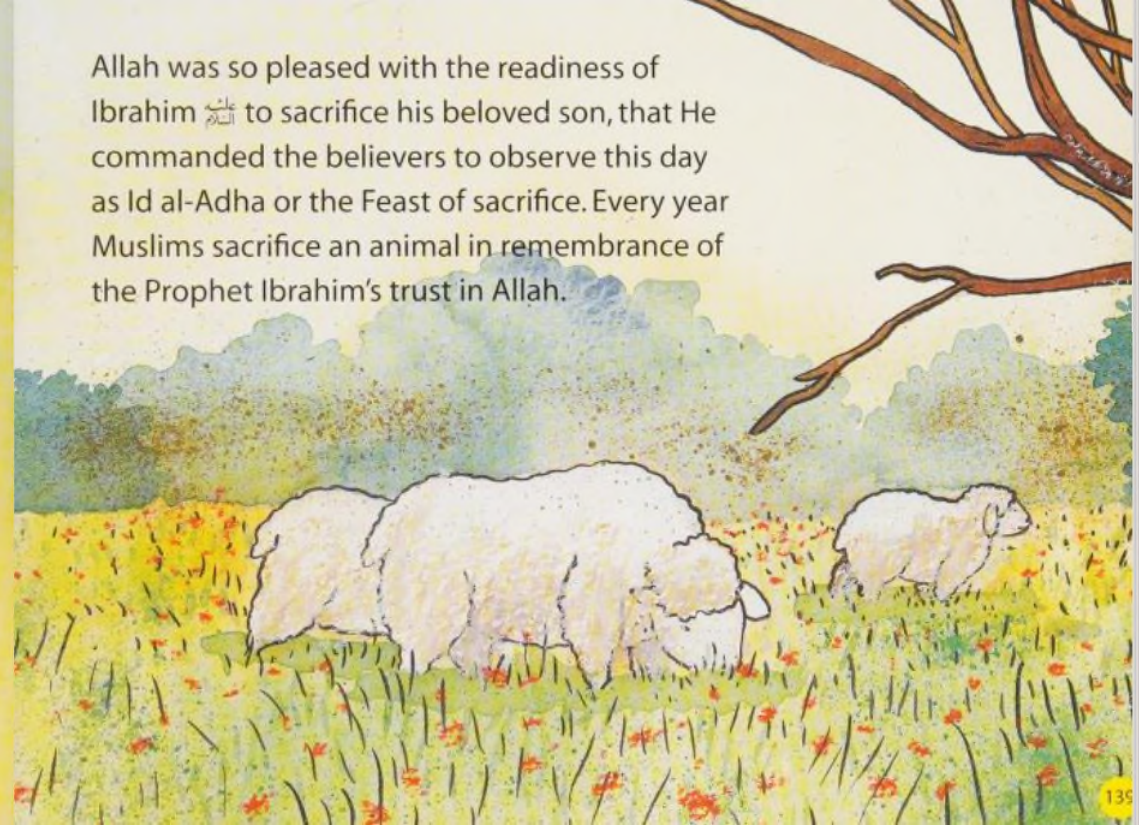
The Prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام picked up a few small stones and threw them at Satan. Little Ismail عليه السلام and his mother did likewise.

The Prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام gently placed his son on the ground and blindfolded himself with a handkerchief so that he could not see his beloved son while carrying out the Lord's command.

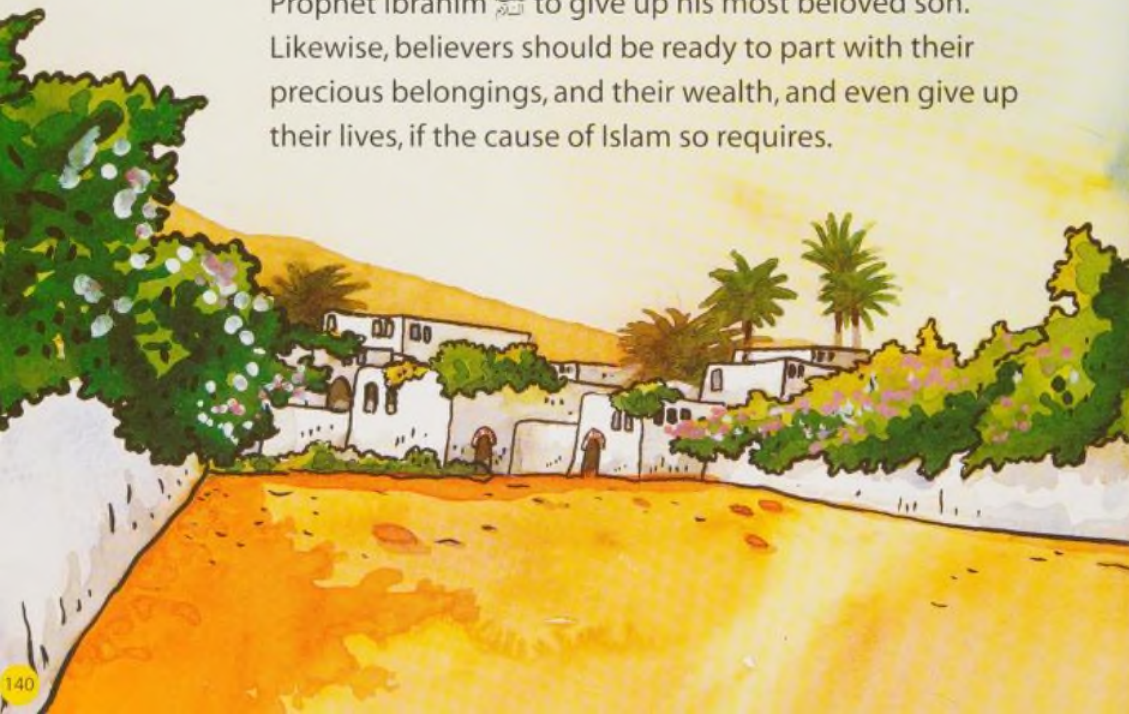
As Ibrahim عليه السلام took a knife to sacrifice Ismail عليه السلام, Allah sent the Angel Jibril (Gabriel) down with a ram. "Sacrifice this ram. Do not sacrifice Ismail," said Jibril to Ibrahim عليه السلام.



Allah was so pleased with the readiness of Ibrahim عليه السلام to sacrifice his beloved son, that He commanded the believers to observe this day as Id al-Adha or the Feast of sacrifice. Every year Muslims sacrifice an animal in remembrance of the Prophet Ibrahim's trust in Allah.



This story reminds believers of the readiness of the Prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام to give up his most beloved son. Likewise, believers should be ready to part with their precious belongings, and their wealth, and even give up their lives, if the cause of Islam so requires.



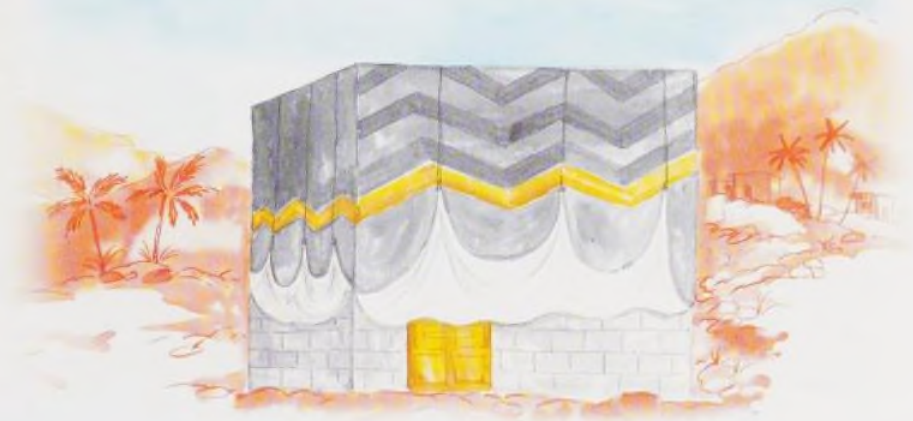
Thus the Quran says: "Truly, my prayers, my sacrifice, my life and my death all belong to Allah, the Lord of the Worlds". (Surah al-Anam, 6:162)


Find Out More

To know more about the message and meaning of Allah's words, look up the following parts of the Quran which tell the story of the Prophet Ibrahim ﷺ : Surah as-Saffat 37:102-111

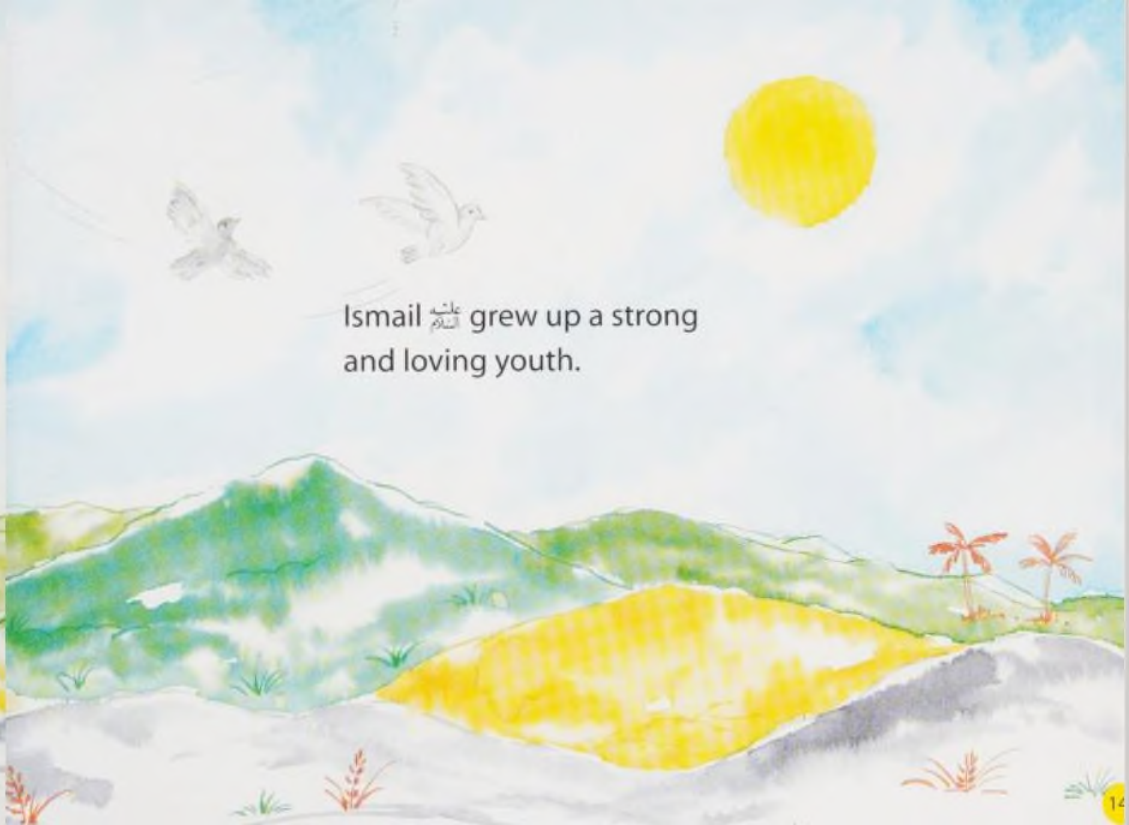
ﷺ Alayhis salam 'May peace be upon him.' The customary blessing on the prophets

THE BUILDERS OF THE KABAH





Long, long ago the Prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام settled his wife Hajar and baby Ismail عليه السلام in a lonely valley in Arabia. Thanks to the miracle of the Zamzam spring there, some people began to live there. Slowly it became a small city, which later came to be known as Makkah.



Ismail عليه السلام grew up a strong and loving youth.

The Prophets Ibrahim عليه السلام and Ismail عليه السلام
were ordered by Allah to build the
House of God — the Kabah in Makkah.

build KABAHA





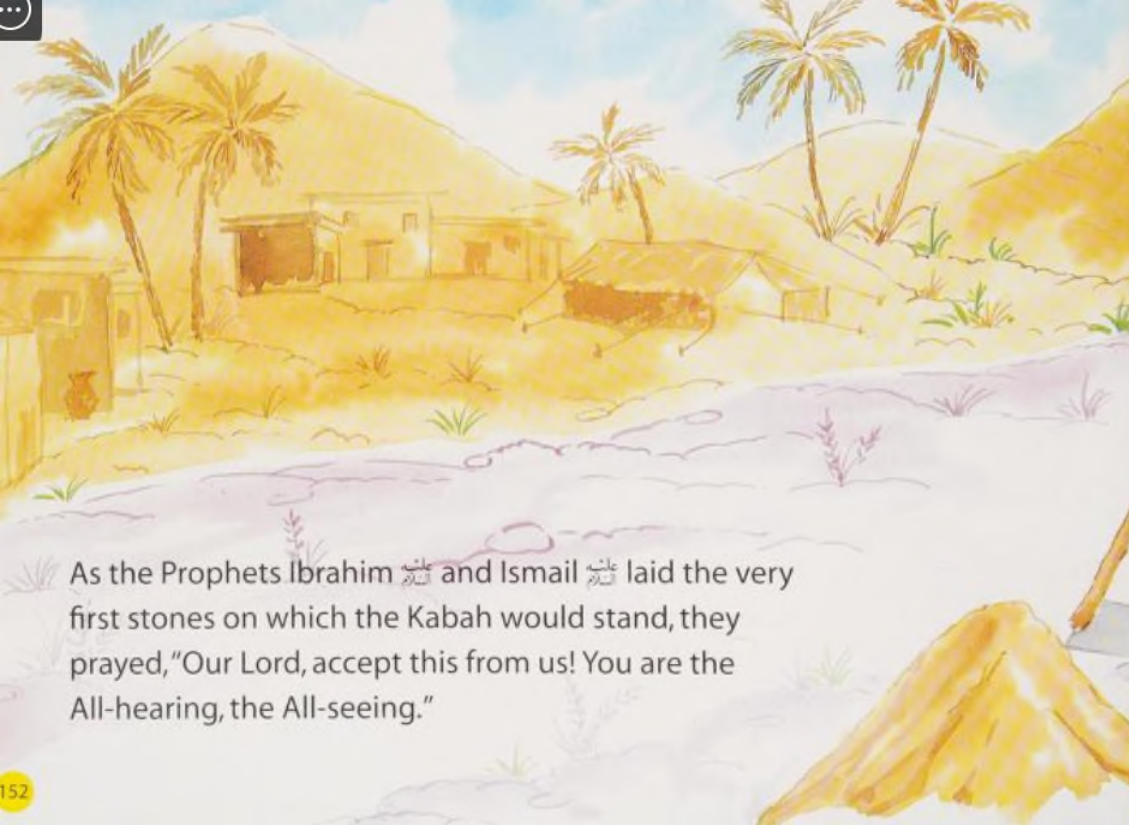
They took stones from the
nearby hills and started to
work.





For this sacred land, Ibrahim عليه السلام prayed, "My Lord, make this land secure, and provide its people with fruits, such of them as believe in Allah and the Last Day."





As the Prophets Ibrahim ؑ and Ismail ؑ laid the very first stones on which the Kabah would stand, they prayed, "Our Lord, accept this from us! You are the All-hearing, the All-seeing."





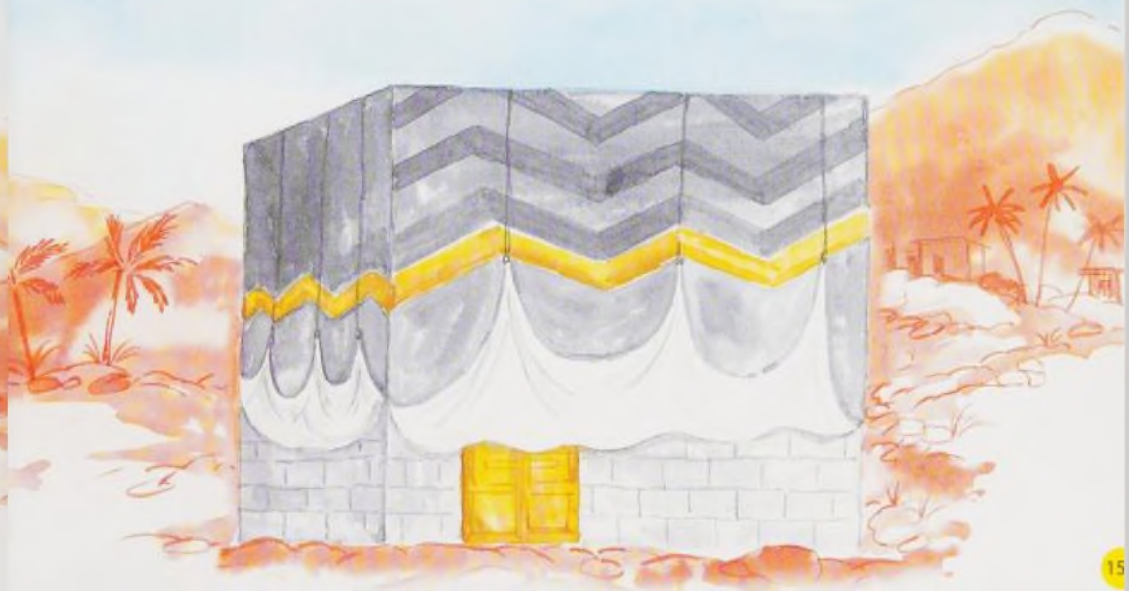
They further prayed, "Our Lord, make us bow to You, and make our offspring a nation which bows to You and show us our ways of worship."



They also prayed for a prophet to be born in their family, who would teach wisdom to the people and purify their faith. Their prayer was answered many years later, when the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was born to the people who came after them.

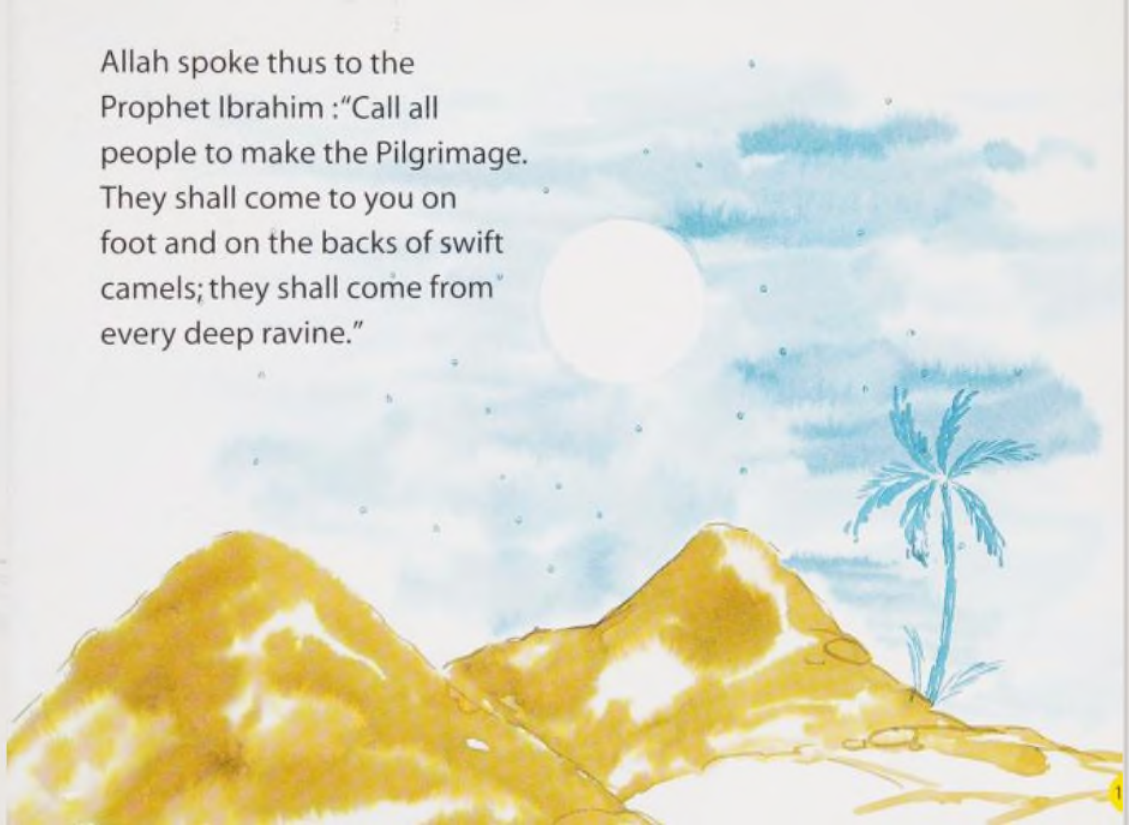


The Prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام was ordered by Allah to clean the Kabah for those who came there to pray, and to call people to Hajj.

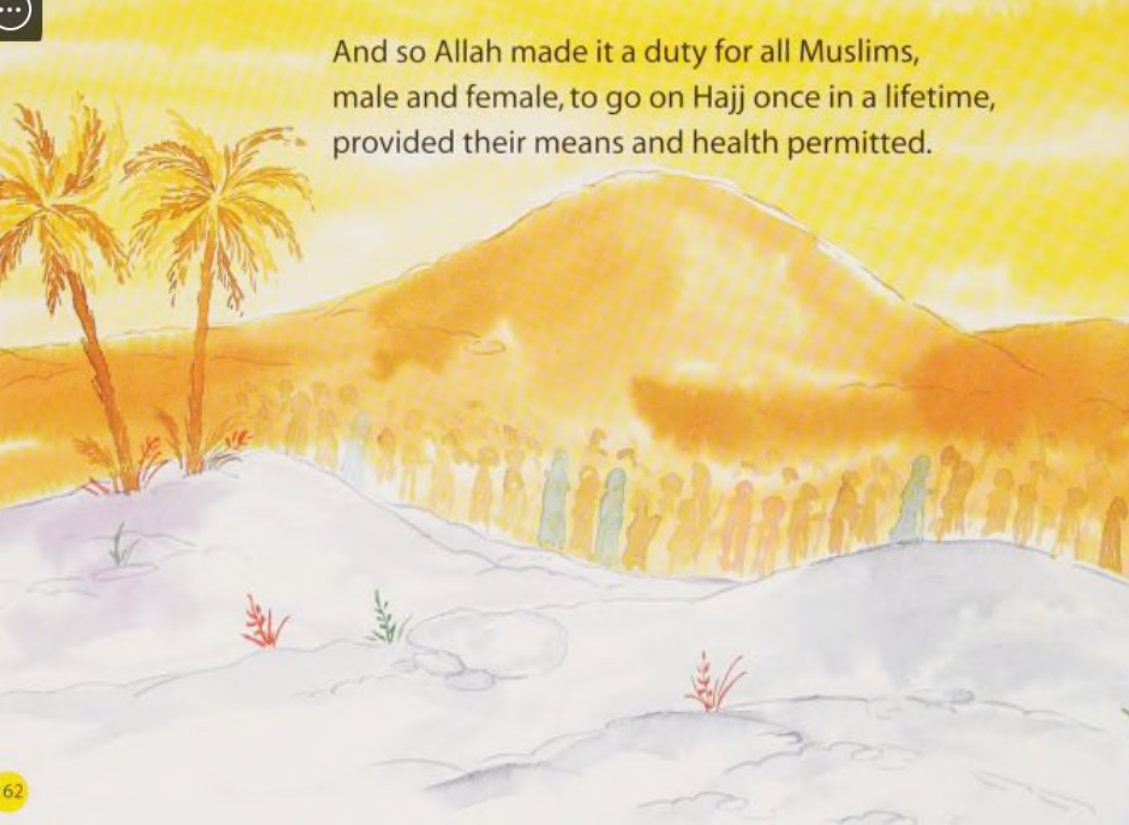




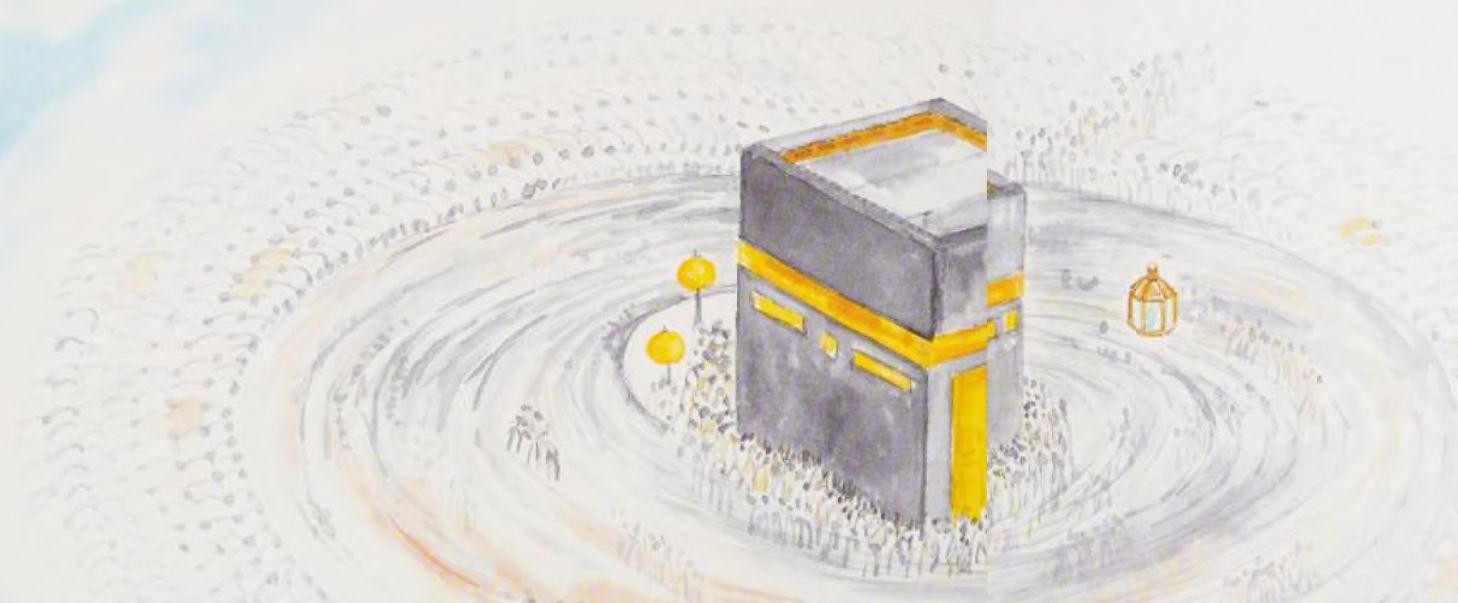
Allah spoke thus to the
Prophet Ibrahim : "Call all
people to make the Pilgrimage.
They shall come to you on
foot and on the backs of swift
camels; they shall come from
every deep ravine."



And so Allah made it a duty for all Muslims,
male and female, to go on Hajj once in a lifetime,
provided their means and health permitted.



Hajj is one of the five pillars of Islam. Today, over 20 million people from around the world gather in Makkah to perform this sacred duty.



The moral of the story is that believers will promise Allah to follow the example set by the Prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام and his family, doing Allah's bidding, whatever it may be, basing their lives on truth and, if necessary, giving up life's comforts and pleasures. Allah will be their focus, a goal from which they will never be turned aside by the forces of evil.

Find Out More

To know more about the message and meaning of Allah's words, look up the following parts of the Quran which tell the story of the Prophets Ibrahim عليه السلام and Ismail عليه السلام:

Surah al-Baqarah 2:125-127; Surah al-Imran 3:96-97

ﷺ Alayhi Salam 'May peace be upon him.' The customary blessings on the prophets.

ﷺ Sallalahu alayhi wa sallam 'May peace and Allah's blessings be on him.'

The customary blessings on the Prophet Muhammad.



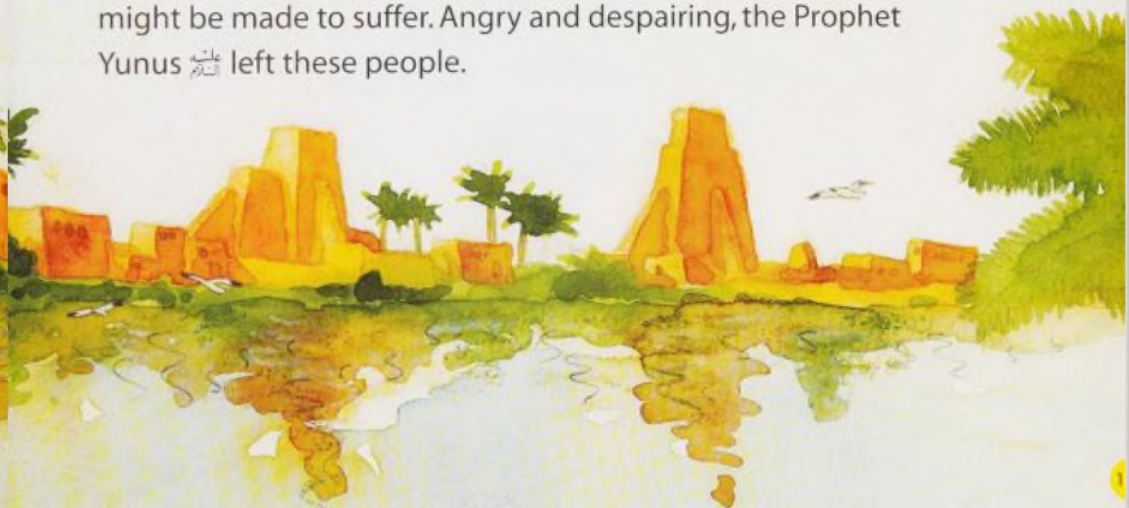
TALE OF A FISH



A very old and powerful community used to live around 800 B.C., in Nineveh, an ancient town believed to have been on the left bank of the Tigris river, some 230 miles north-west of Baghdad. Allah sent the Prophet Yunus (Jonah) ﷺ to this community to guide them on to the right path.

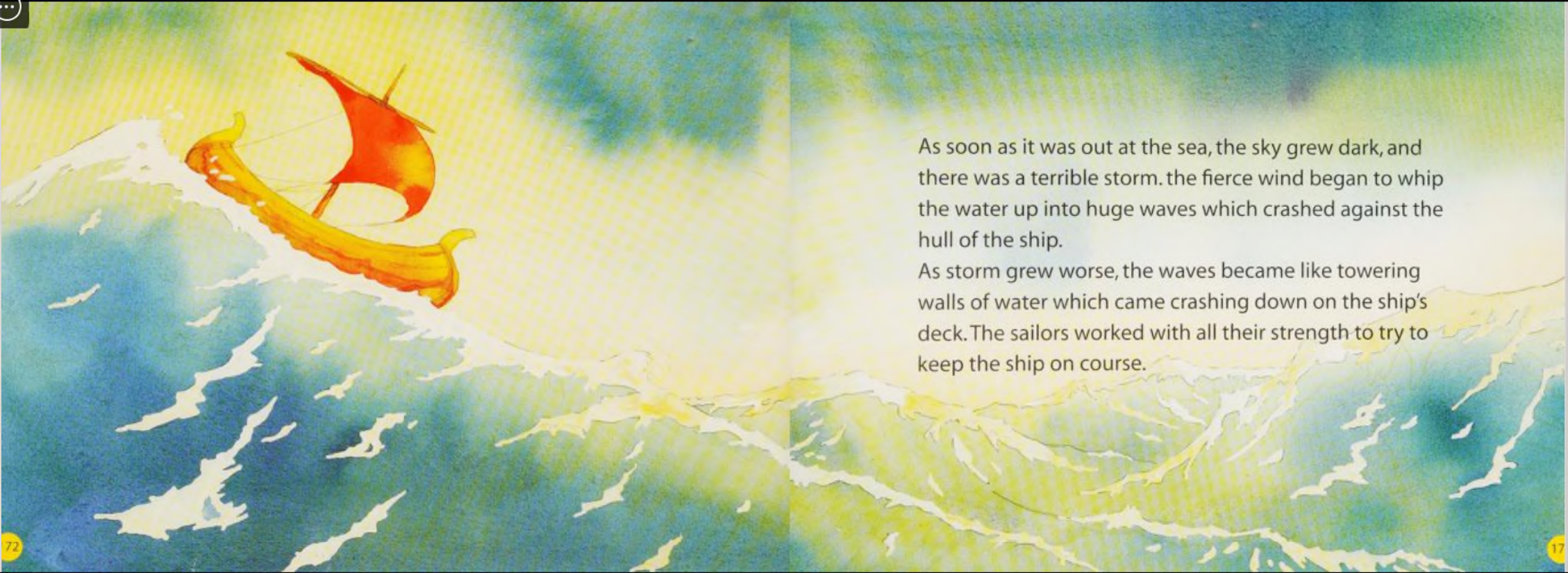


The Prophet Yunus ﷺ did as Allah said and went to these people. He gave them His message and warned them to turn away from their wickedness. The Prophet Yunus ﷺ preached to them for a long time, but they paid no heed to his words. When he realized that they intended to continue on the wrong path, he warned them about how bad their actions were and that in the end they might be made to suffer. Angry and despairing, the Prophet Yunus ﷺ left these people.



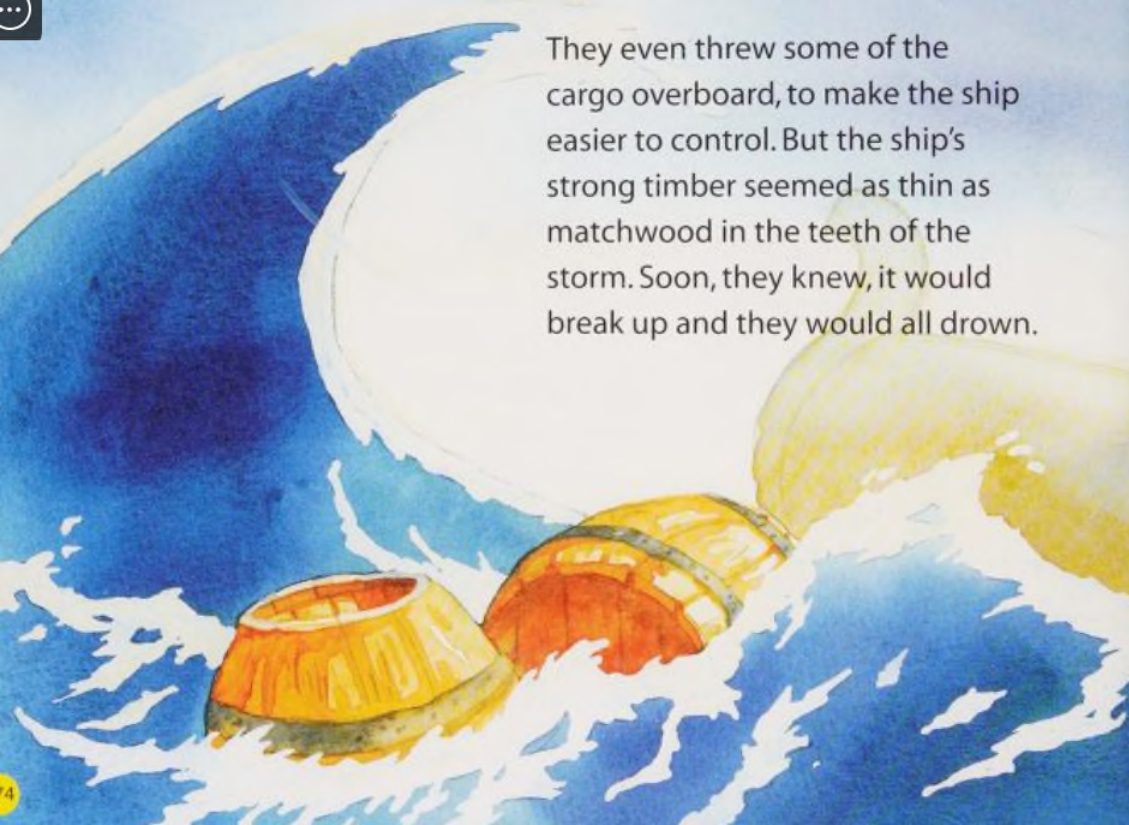
The Prophet Yunus عليه السلام moved out of the city and headed towards the seaport where there were ships tied up, waiting to sail. One, the Prophet Yunus عليه السلام found, was due to sail to a far off land. He boarded the ship.



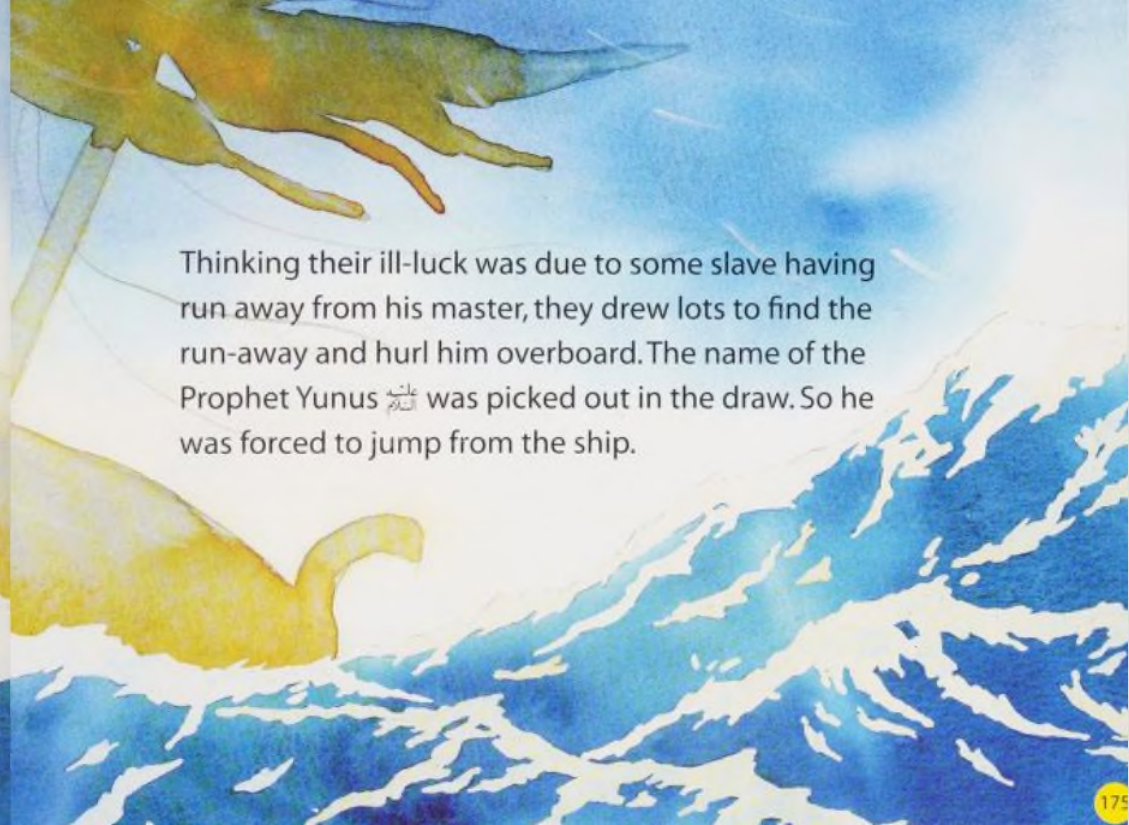


As soon as it was out at the sea, the sky grew dark, and there was a terrible storm. the fierce wind began to whip the water up into huge waves which crashed against the hull of the ship.

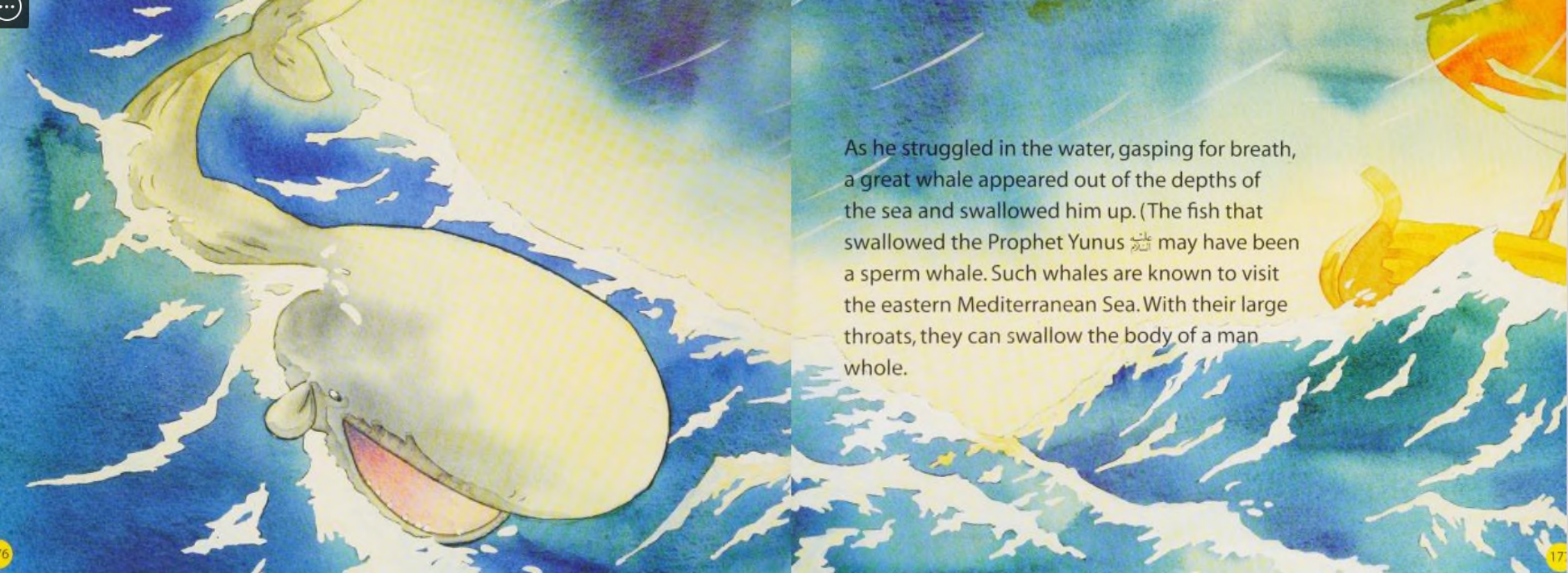
As storm grew worse, the waves became like towering walls of water which came crashing down on the ship's deck. The sailors worked with all their strength to try to keep the ship on course.



They even threw some of the cargo overboard, to make the ship easier to control. But the ship's strong timber seemed as thin as matchwood in the teeth of the storm. Soon, they knew, it would break up and they would all drown.

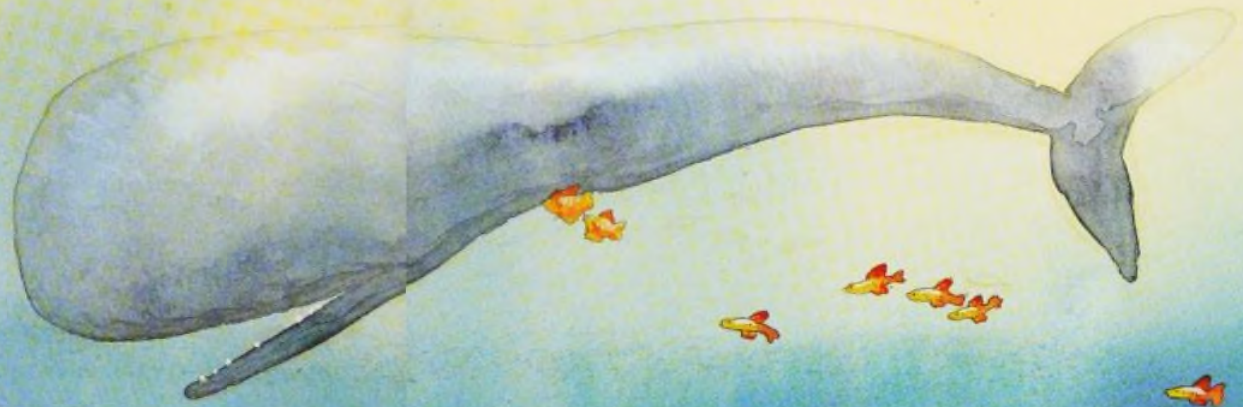


Thinking their ill-luck was due to some slave having run away from his master, they drew lots to find the run-away and hurl him overboard. The name of the Prophet Yunus عليه السلام was picked out in the draw. So he was forced to jump from the ship.



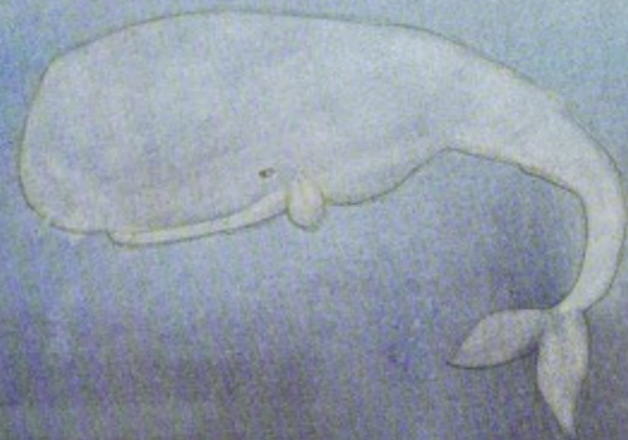
As he struggled in the water, gasping for breath, a great whale appeared out of the depths of the sea and swallowed him up. (The fish that swallowed the Prophet Yunus ﷺ may have been a sperm whale. Such whales are known to visit the eastern Mediterranean Sea. With their large throats, they can swallow the body of a man whole.

Suddenly the Prophet Yunus عليه السلام found himself in the dark, damp insides of the huge fish. He had not drowned. He was still alive! Now the Prophet Yunus عليه السلام realized that he had left the people of Nineveh too early without completing the task assigned by Allah. As a rule, once it became clear that a nation had rejected Allah's message, the



prophet who had been the bearer of that message was commanded by Allah to leave—but only if he had done his very best to reform his hearers. Then Allah punished the erring people as a mark of His wrath. But the Prophet Yunus عليه السلام had not waited for Allah's order. He had simply gone away, leaving the people of Nineveh to their doom.

When the Prophet Yunus عليه السلام realized his mistake, he cried from the depth of darkness: "There is no god but You. Glory be to You! I have done wrong." Allah heard his prayers. The Quran says that if he had not said he was sorry and glorified Allah in his prayers, he would have stayed in the belly of the fish till the Day of Judgement.



The fish, by the command of Allah, swam close to the land and brought the Prophet Yunus عليه السلام safely on to the beach, where he found himself under a tree called Yaqtin (gourd-tree). It shaded him from the heat of the sun while he recovered from his ordeal. It also gave him delicious fruit full of juice to quench his thirst.



The Prophet Yunus عليه السلام then returned to his people and preached to them again. All of them, over one hundred thousand, responded to his call.

The lesson in the story of the Prophet Yunus عليه السلام is twofold. Firstly, the great duty to deliver the message of Allah to others now falls on every



Muslim. If we ignore this duty and become desperate (as the Prophet Yunus عليه السلام was at first), we will be found guilty of not carrying out the task set for us by Allah.

Secondly, the courage which was shown by the Prophet Yunus عليه السلام as he nearly drowned is a great example and shows us that we should never despair of the mercy of Allah. If we are on the right path and say we are sorry for our failings, Allah will help us as miraculously as He did when the Prophet Yunus عليه السلام was saved from the raging sea by the giant fish.





Find Out More

To know more about the message and meaning of Allah's words, look up the following parts of the Quran which tell the story of the Prophet Yunus عليه السلام: Surah al-Anbiya 21:87-88
Surah as-Saffat 37:139-148
ﷺ Alayhis Salam 'May peace be upon him.' The customary blessings on the prophets.

THE PROPHET KING

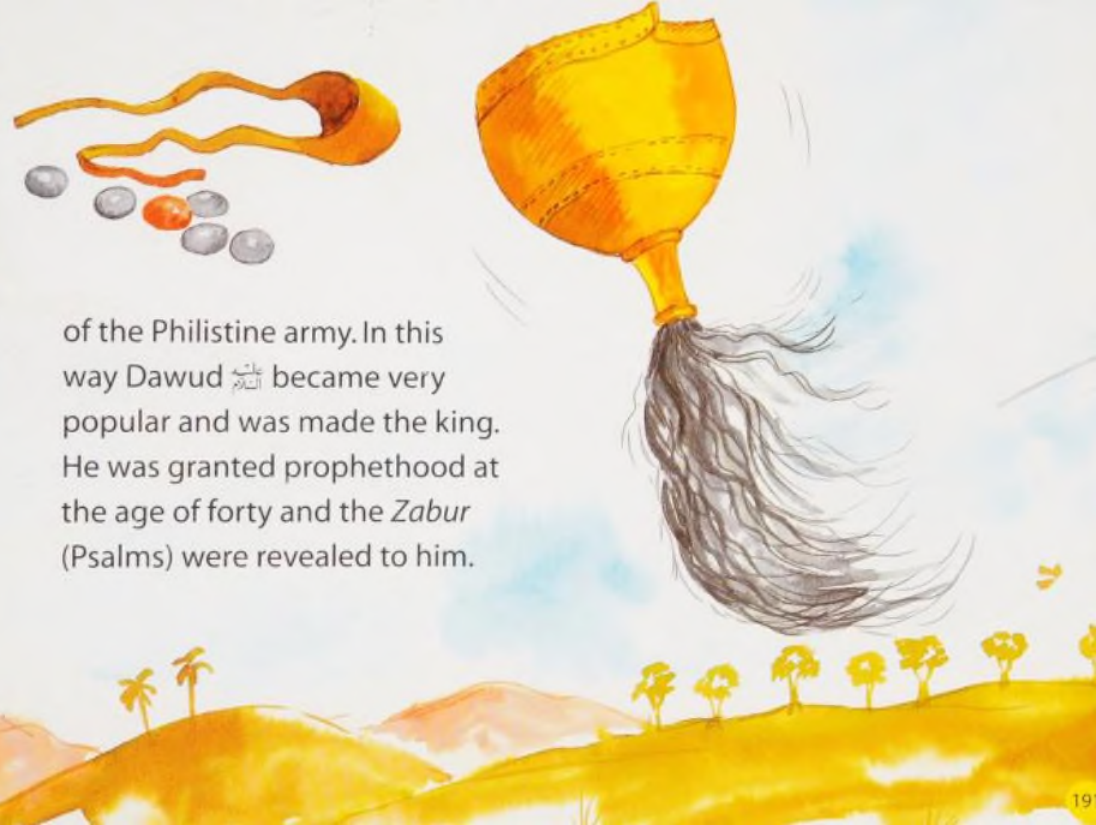


Many many years after the death of the Prophet Musa ﷺ, in the eleventh century B.C., there was much unrest among the Banu Israil due to the Philistines, Amalekites, Amorites and other tribes trying to take their homeland snatched away from them by force.



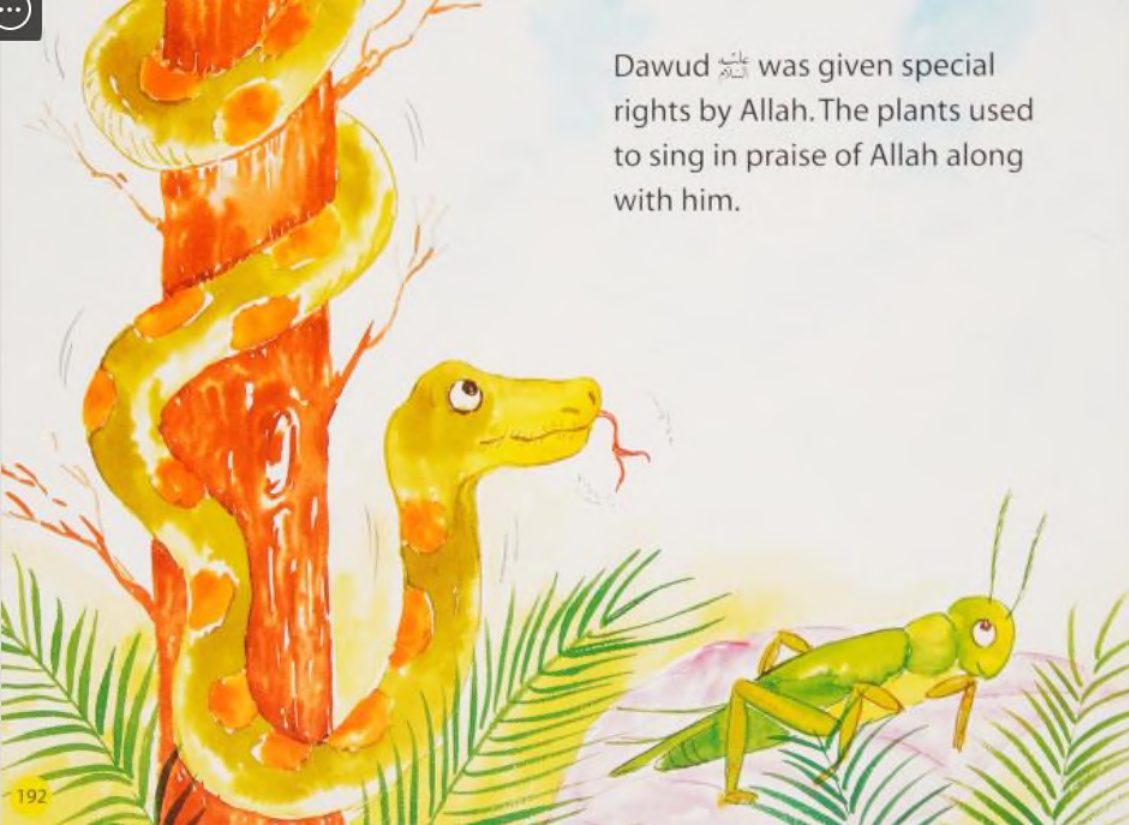


Then the Prophet Shamwil (Samuel) ﷺ made Talut (Saul) their king and he fought with the Philistines. His army fought and defeated the enemy. Dawud ﷺ, who was in his youth, also took part in the battle. He slew Jalut (Goliath), the commander



of the Philistine army. In this way Dawud ﷺ became very popular and was made the king. He was granted prophethood at the age of forty and the *Zabur* (Psalms) were revealed to him.

Dawud عليه السلام was given special rights by Allah. The plants used to sing in praise of Allah along with him.



The mountains would join him in singing the praises of Allah.



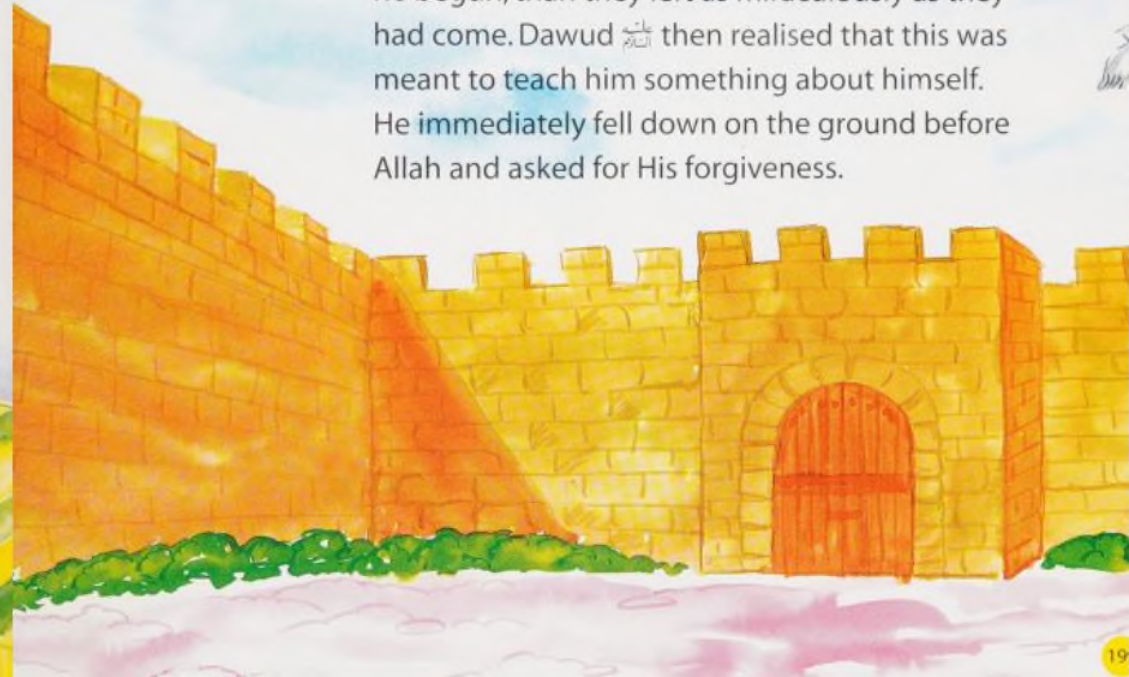
The birds too used to sing
with him in praise of Allah.



Once, when he was praying in his private room, two men with a grudge against each other broke in by climbing over the wall. He was taken aback, but they pleaded that they had come only to see justice done. One of them said, "We are brothers and we have a quarrel, which we want you to settle." The other said, "This man is my brother. He has ninety-nine sheep, and I have only one. Yet he tells me to hand it over to him. And that is not all. He speaks harshly to me."

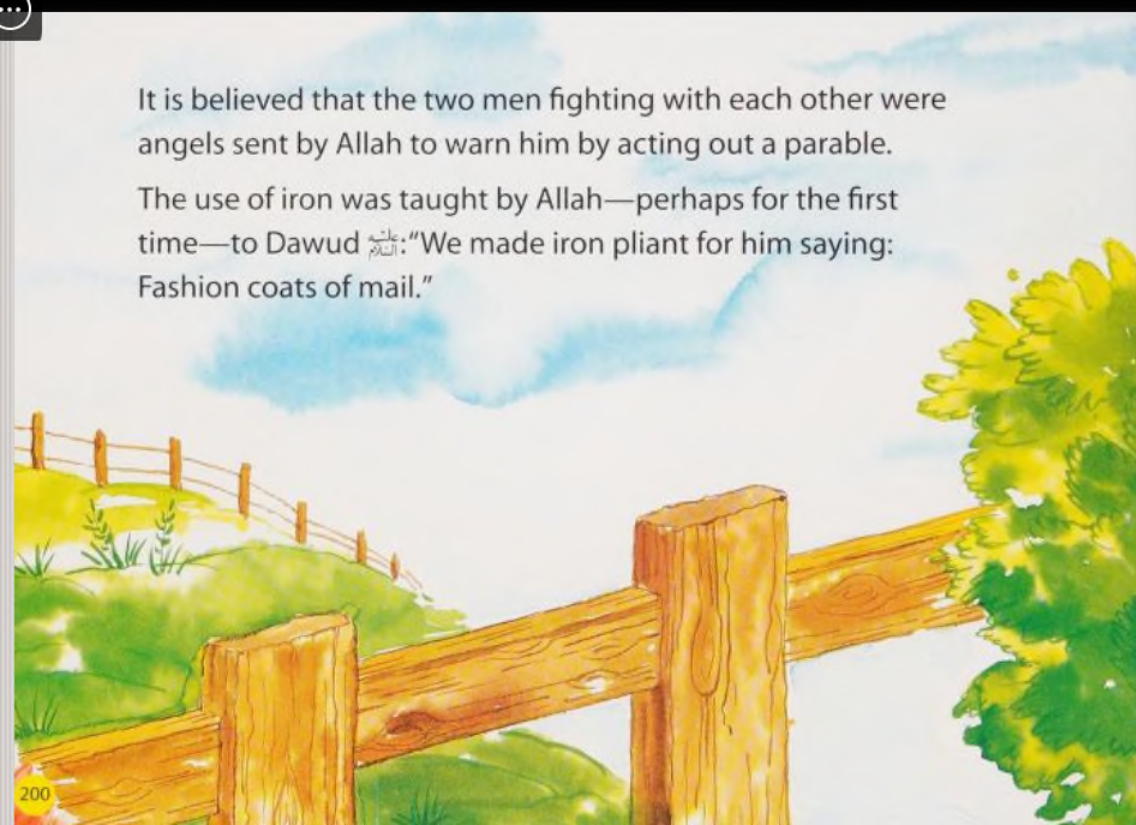


At first, Dawud عليه السلام believed everything they said, and began preaching to them, but no sooner had he begun, than they left as miraculously as they had come. Dawud عليه السلام then realised that this was meant to **teach** him something about himself. He **immediately** fell down on the ground before Allah and asked for His forgiveness.

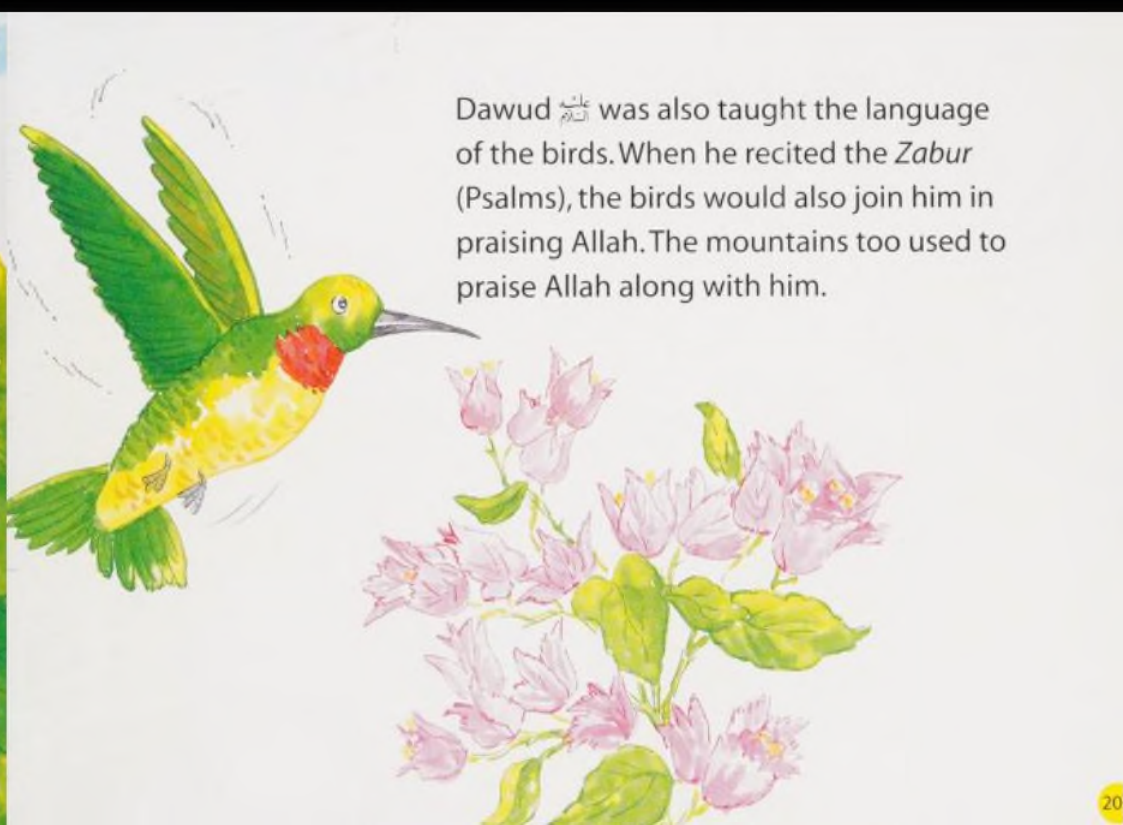


It is believed that the two men fighting with each other were angels sent by Allah to warn him by acting out a parable.

The use of iron was taught by Allah—perhaps for the first time—to Dawud عليه السلام: “We made iron pliant for him saying: Fashion coats of mail.”



Dawud عليه السلام was also taught the language of the birds. When he recited the *Zabur* (Psalms), the birds would also join him in praising Allah. The mountains too used to praise Allah along with him.



He was given special help against his enemies, and great wisdom to judge between the Truth and falsehood.

Find Out More

To know more about the message and meaning of Allah's words, look up the following parts of the Quran which tell the story of the Prophet Dawud ﷺ: Surah al-Baqarah 2:251 Surah al-Anbiya 21:78-80; Surah Saba 34:10-11; Surah Sad 38:17-25
ﷺ Alayhis Salam 'May peace be upon him.' The customary blessings on the prophets.

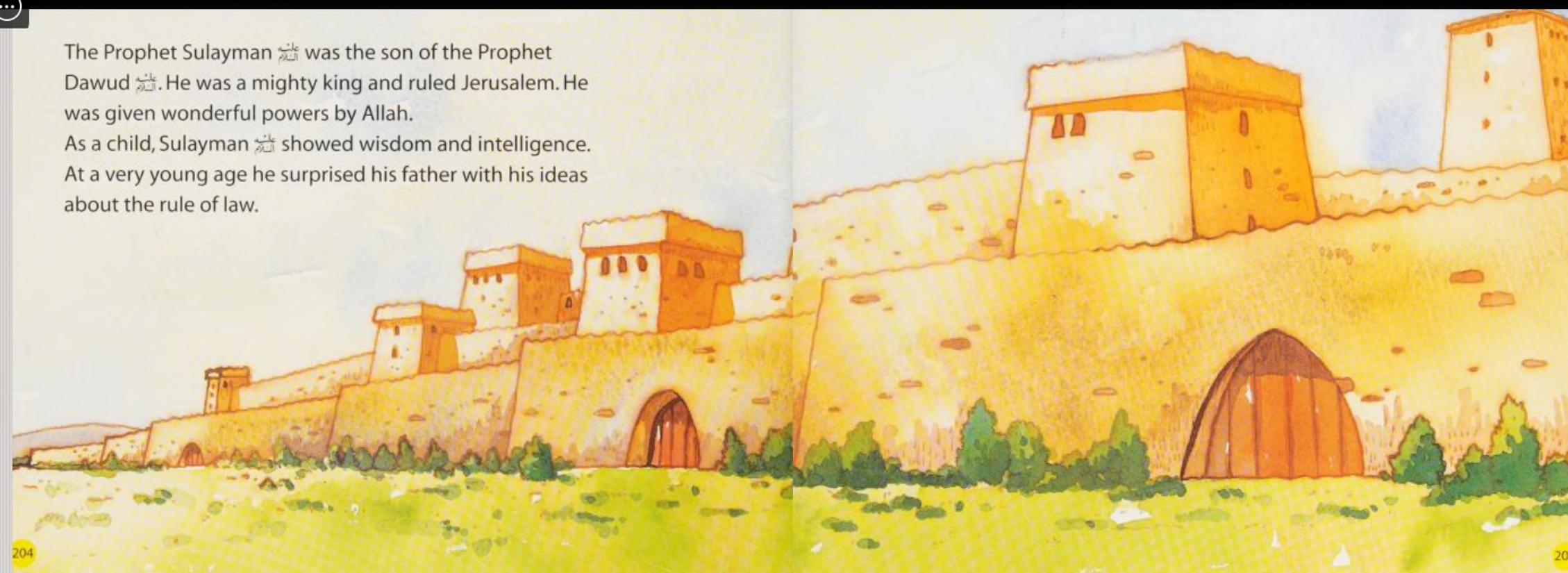


THE ANTS PANIC



The Prophet Sulayman عليه السلام was the son of the Prophet Dawud عليه السلام. He was a mighty king and ruled Jerusalem. He was given wonderful powers by Allah.

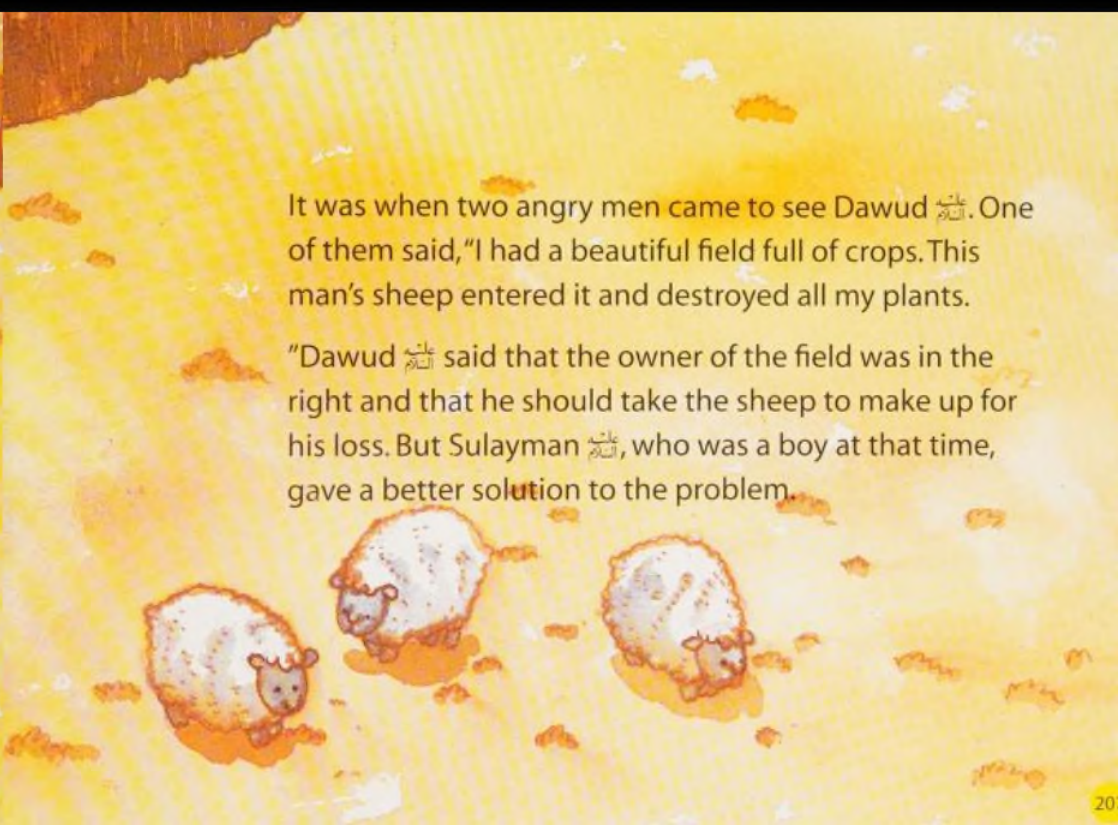
As a child, Sulayman عليه السلام showed wisdom and intelligence. At a very young age he surprised his father with his ideas about the rule of law.





It was when two angry men came to see Dawud عليه السلام. One of them said, "I had a beautiful field full of crops. This man's sheep entered it and destroyed all my plants."

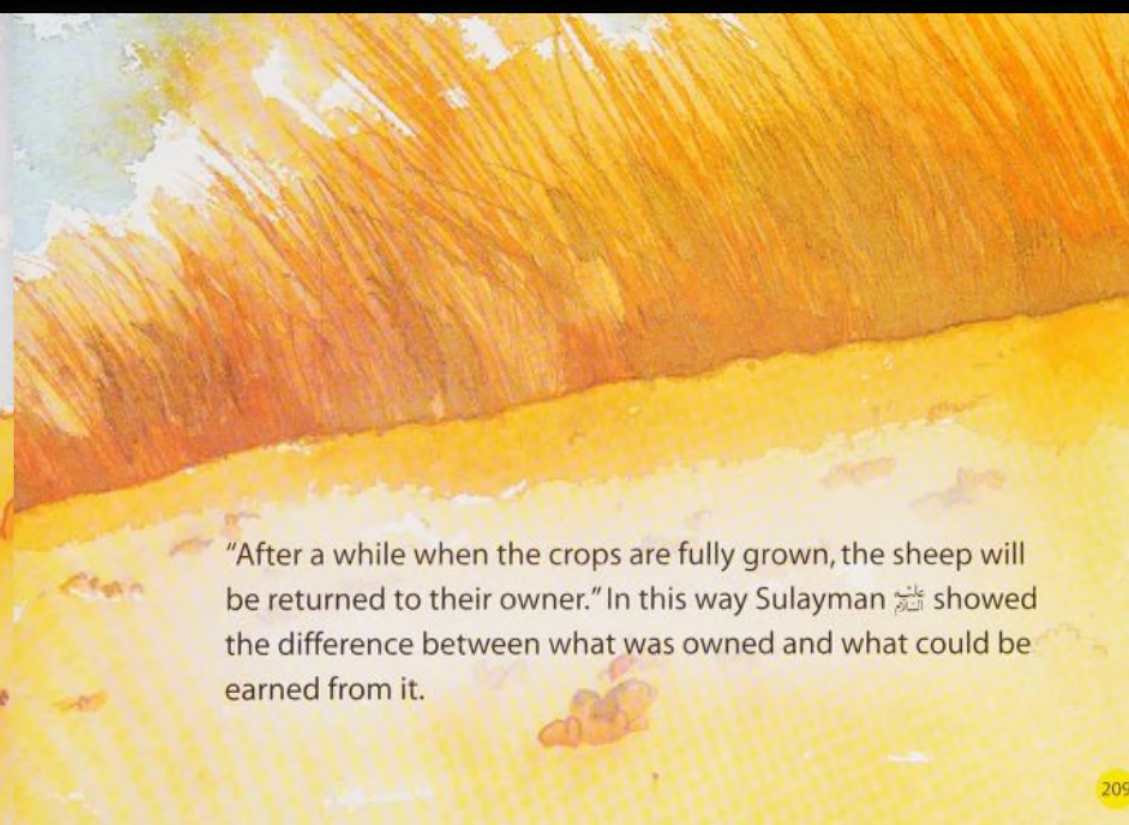
"Dawud عليه السلام said that the owner of the field was in the right and that he should take the sheep to make up for his loss. But Sulayman عليه السلام, who was a boy at that time, gave a better solution to the problem."



"I would like to suggest," said Sulayman عليه السلام "that the sheep be given to the owner of the field, who will use their milk and wool."



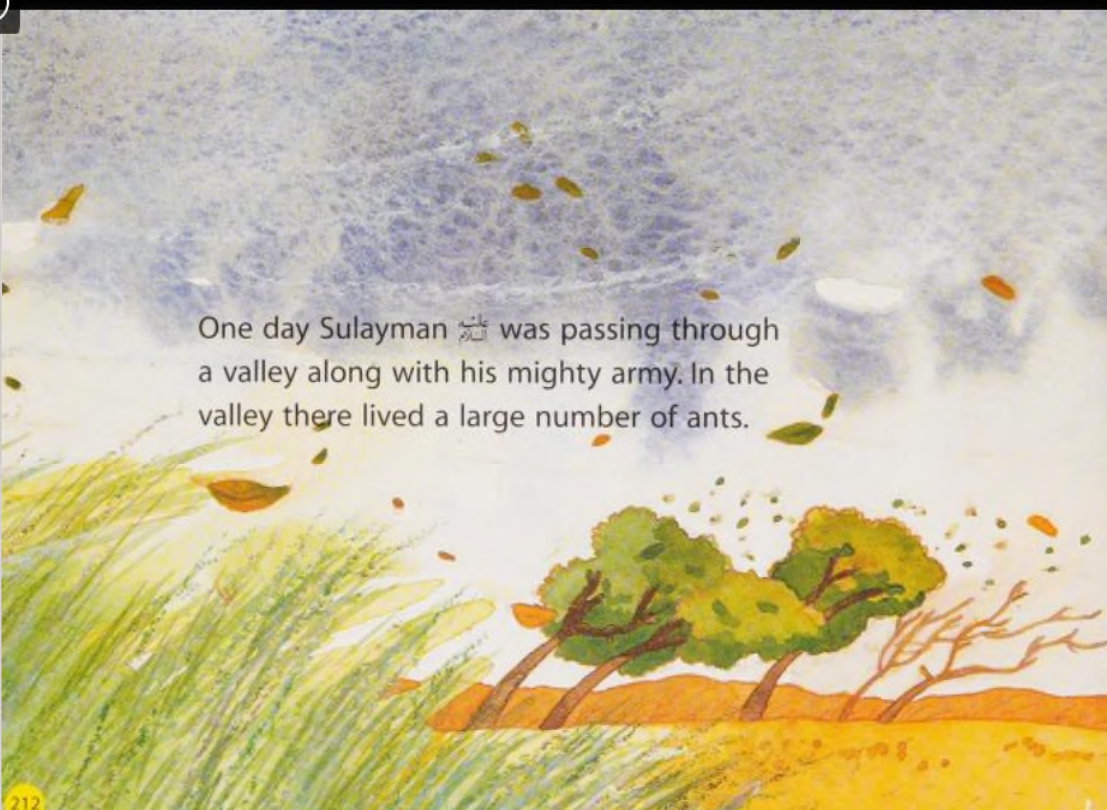
"After a while when the crops are fully grown, the sheep will be returned to their owner." In this way Sulayman عليه السلام showed the difference between what was owned and what could be earned from it.



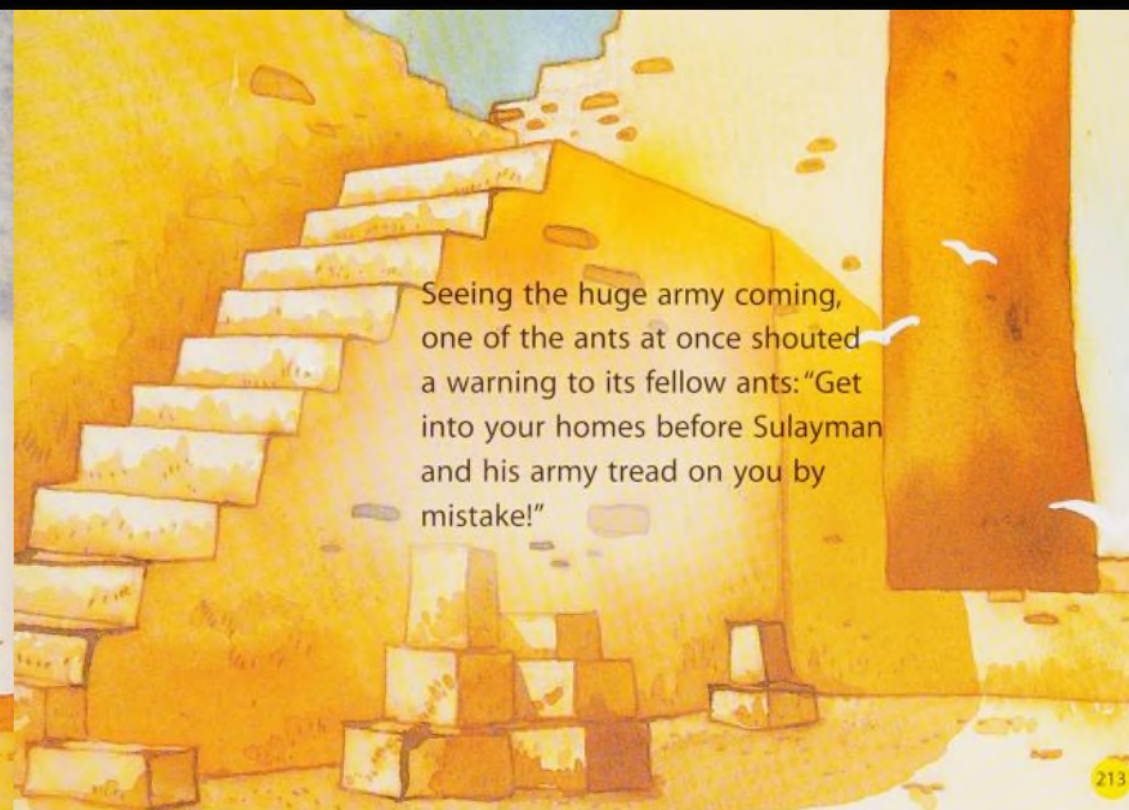
When Sulayman عليه السلام grew up, he was blessed with prophethood and became the king too. Allah gave him special knowledge.

He was able to understand the language of the birds.

By Allah's special favour he could control the winds. He was also in control of the jinn. He used to employ them in any way he liked.



One day Sulayman ﷺ was passing through a valley along with his mighty army. In the valley there lived a large number of ants.



Seeing the huge army coming, one of the ants at once shouted a warning to its fellow ants: "Get into your homes before Sulayman and his army tread on you by mistake!"

Sulayman عليه السلام heard what the ant said and smiled. Because of Allah's great boon to him, he was able to understand languages that others could not.



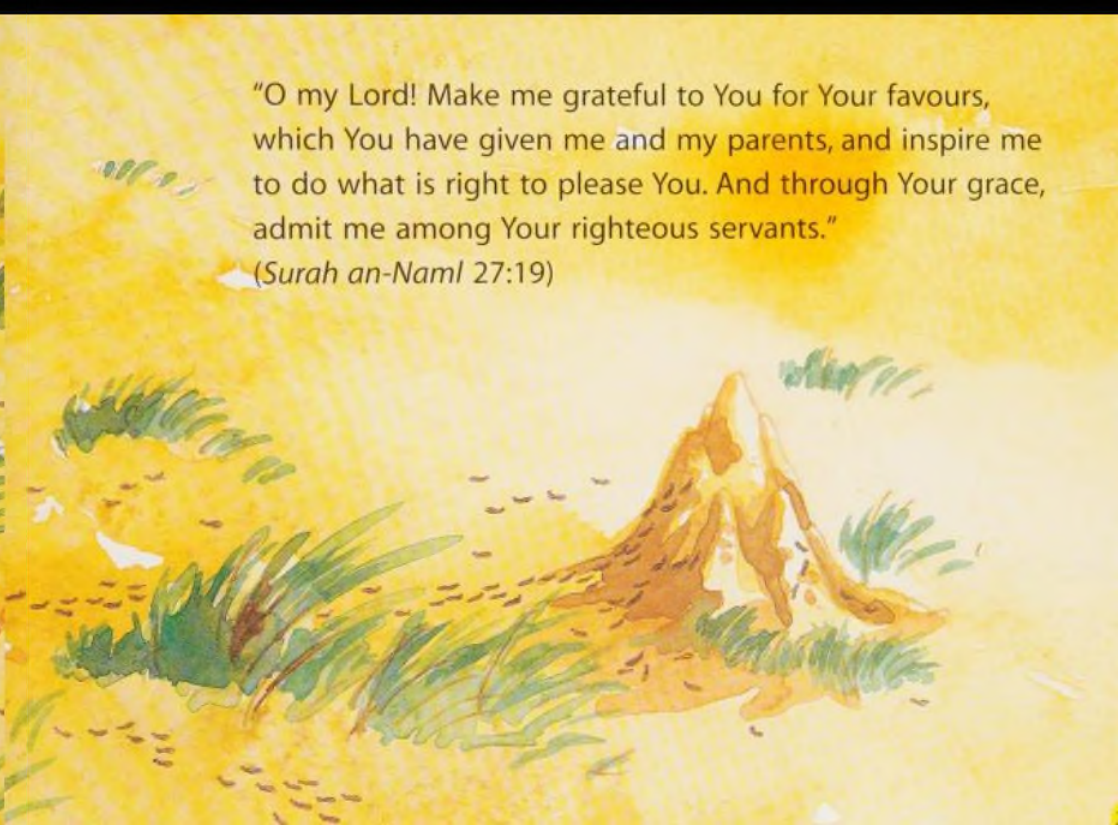
He was suddenly startled by the realization of how merciful Allah had been to him. He turned to his Lord in praise and prayed:





"O my Lord! Make me grateful to You for Your favours, which You have given me and my parents, and inspire me to do what is right to please You. And through Your grace, admit me among Your righteous servants."

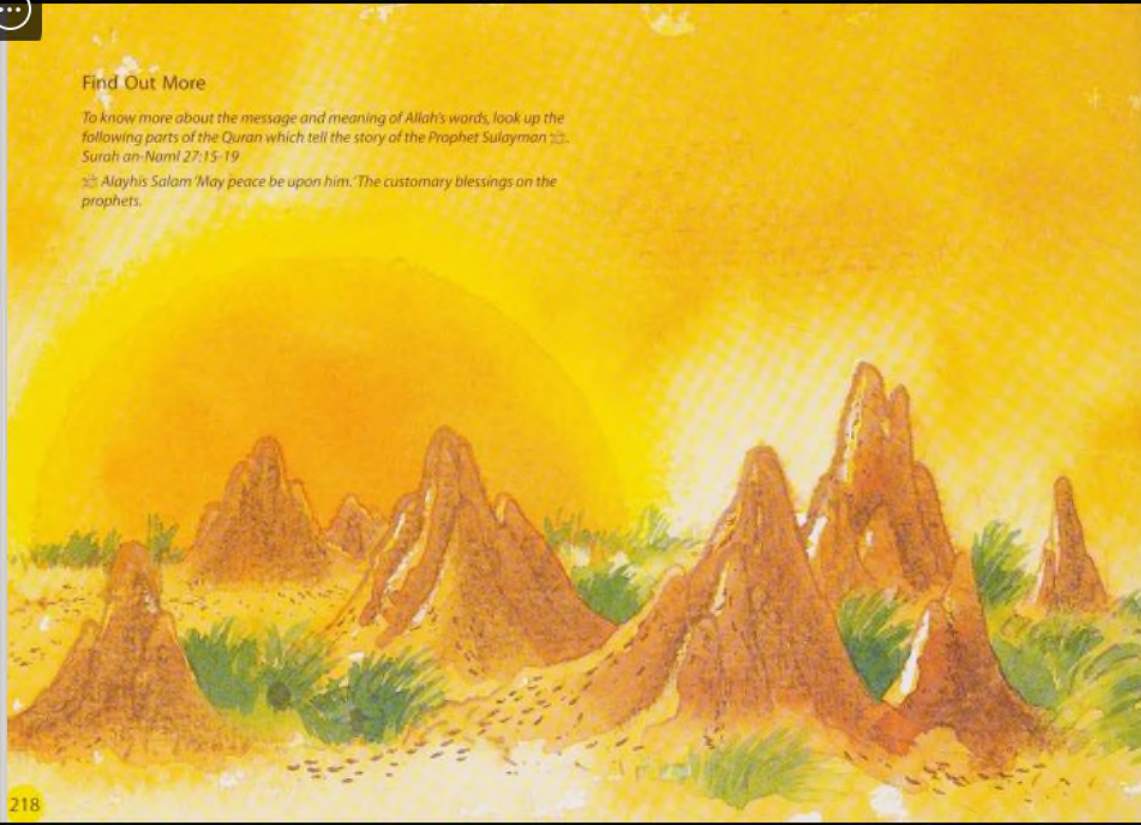
(Surah an-Naml 27:19)



Find Out More

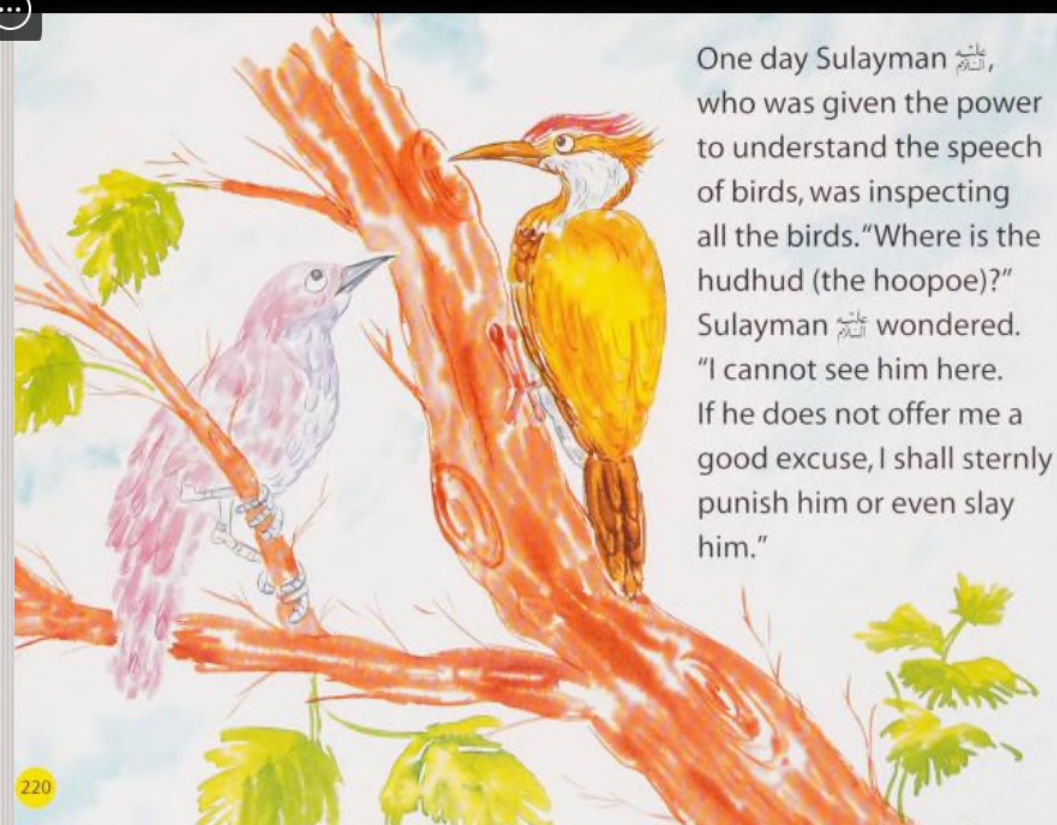
To know more about the message and meaning of Allah's words, look up the following parts of the Quran which tell the story of the Prophet Sulayman ﷺ. Surah an-Naml 27:15-19

ﷺ Alayhis Salam 'May peace be upon him.' The customary blessings on the prophets.



THE QUEEN AND THE BIRD





One day Sulayman عليه السلام, who was given the power to understand the speech of birds, was inspecting all the birds. "Where is the hudhud (the hoopoe)?" Sulayman عليه السلام wondered. "I cannot see him here. If he does not offer me a good excuse, I shall sternly punish him or even slay him."



"Soon after, the hudhud arrived." "I have just seen what you know nothing of," said the hudhud, gasping for breath. "I bring you a true tale from faraway Sheba," continued the hudhud, "where I have found a woman reigning over the people."



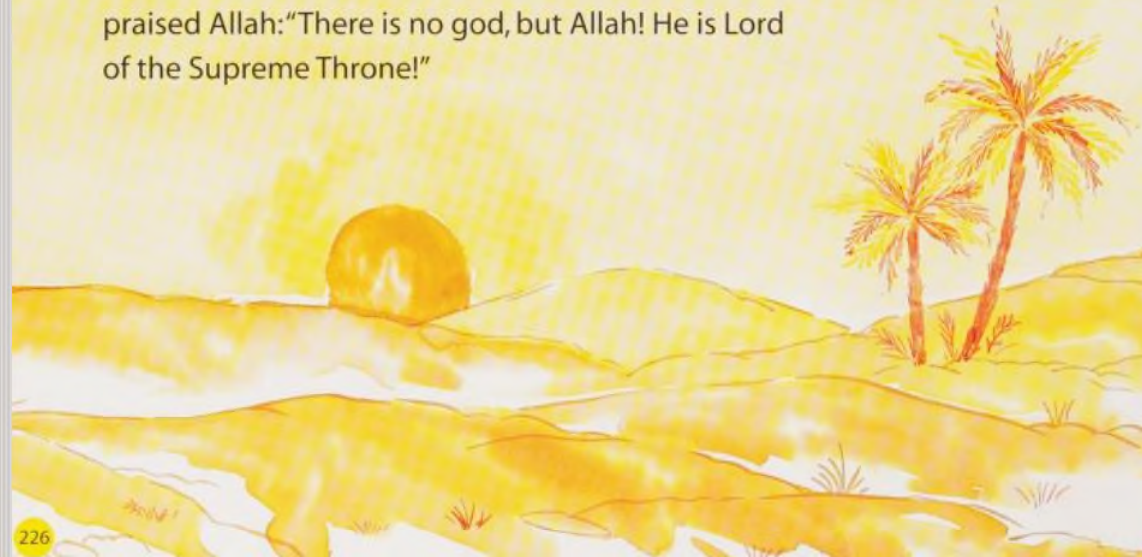


"She has every virtue"
continued the hudhud,"and
she has a splendid throne.
But she and here subjects
worship the sun instead of
Allah.



The hudhud continued, "Satan has made them believe they are doing what is right and he has kept them from the right path. So they do not worship Allah, who reveals what is hidden in the heavens and the earth." With this the hudhud praised Allah: "There is no god, but Allah! He is Lord of the Supreme Throne!"

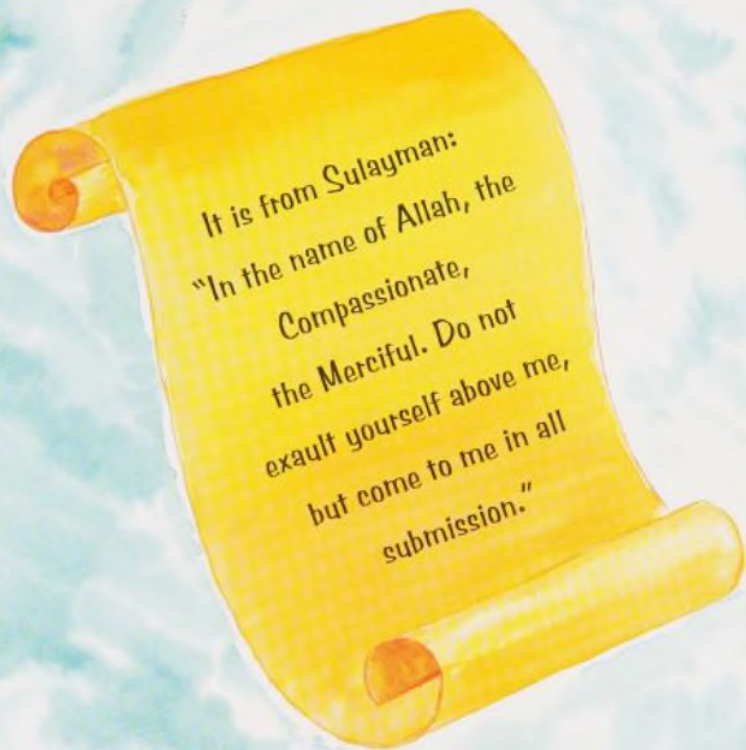
**There is no god,
but ALLAH!**



Sulayman عليه السلام gave a letter to the hudhud asking him to deliver this to the Queen, and to bring back her reply. She consulted her people about this letter. They suggested waging a war against Sulayman عليه السلام.



It is from Sulayman:
"In the name of Allah, the
Compassionate,
the Merciful. Do not
exalt yourself above me,
but come to me in all
submission."





But the Queen replied with great wisdom, "When kings invade a city, they ruin it and degrade its people. That has been their way."



Instead she sent some valuable gifts, which Sulayman عليه السلام refused to accept. Then she herself set out to meet Sulayman عليه السلام.

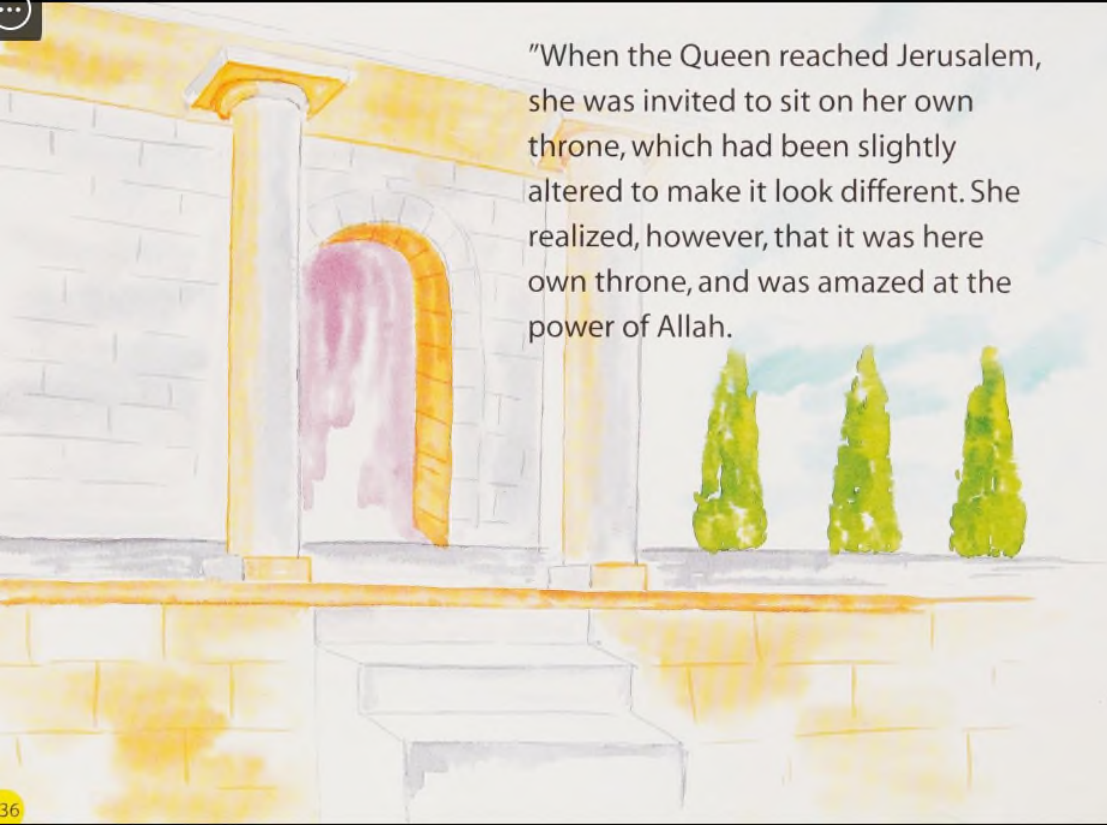


In the meanwhile, Sulayman asked his people: "Which one of you can bring me the Queen's throne before she arrives here?" A very powerful *jinn*, Ifrit volunteered, "I will bring it to you before you rise from your seat." But one of his aides, who was deeply versed in the Book, brought the throne in the twinkling of an eye.

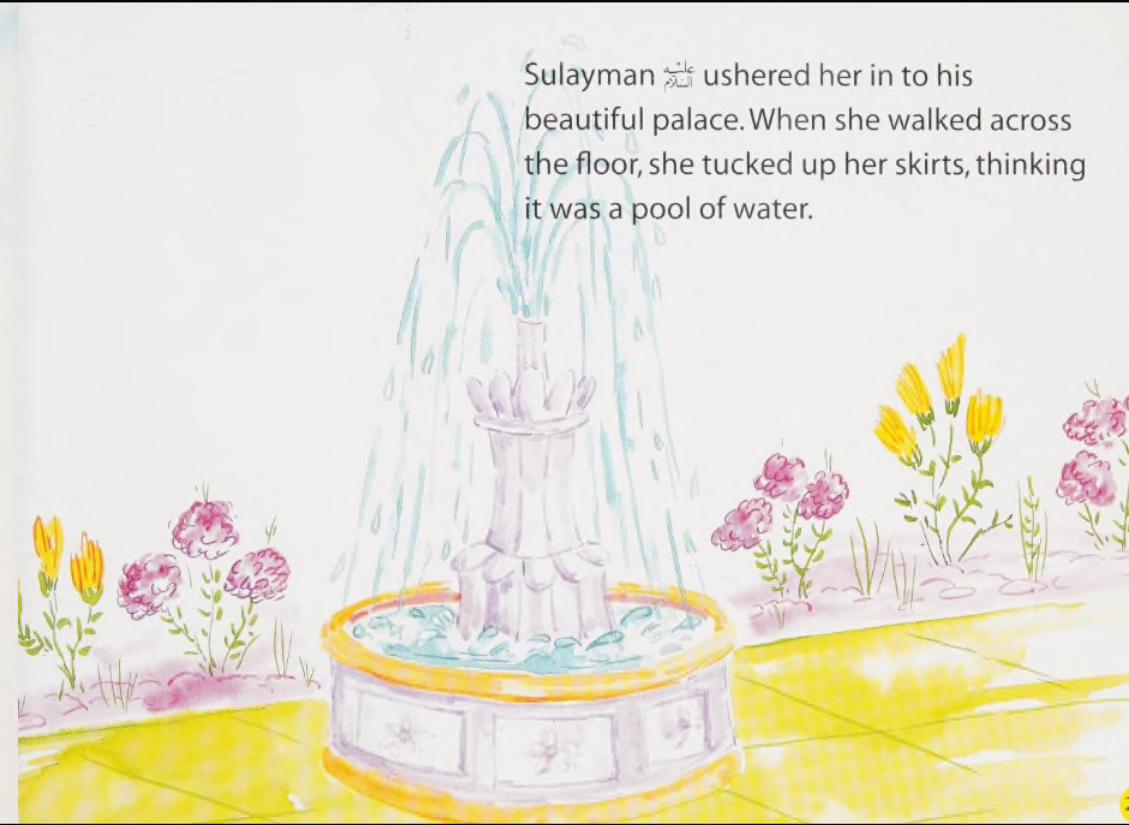
Seeing the throne in front of him, Sulayman was overwhelmed with emotion, but displayed not pride. He prostrated himself in humility and prayed, thanking Allah: "This is a favour from my Lord with which He would test my gratitude. He that gives thanks has much to gain; but he who is ungrateful will lose as a result. As for Allah, He is free of all needs. He is Supreme in Honour!"



"When the Queen reached Jerusalem, she was invited to sit on her own throne, which had been slightly altered to make it look different. She realized, however, that it was here own throne, and was amazed at the power of Allah.

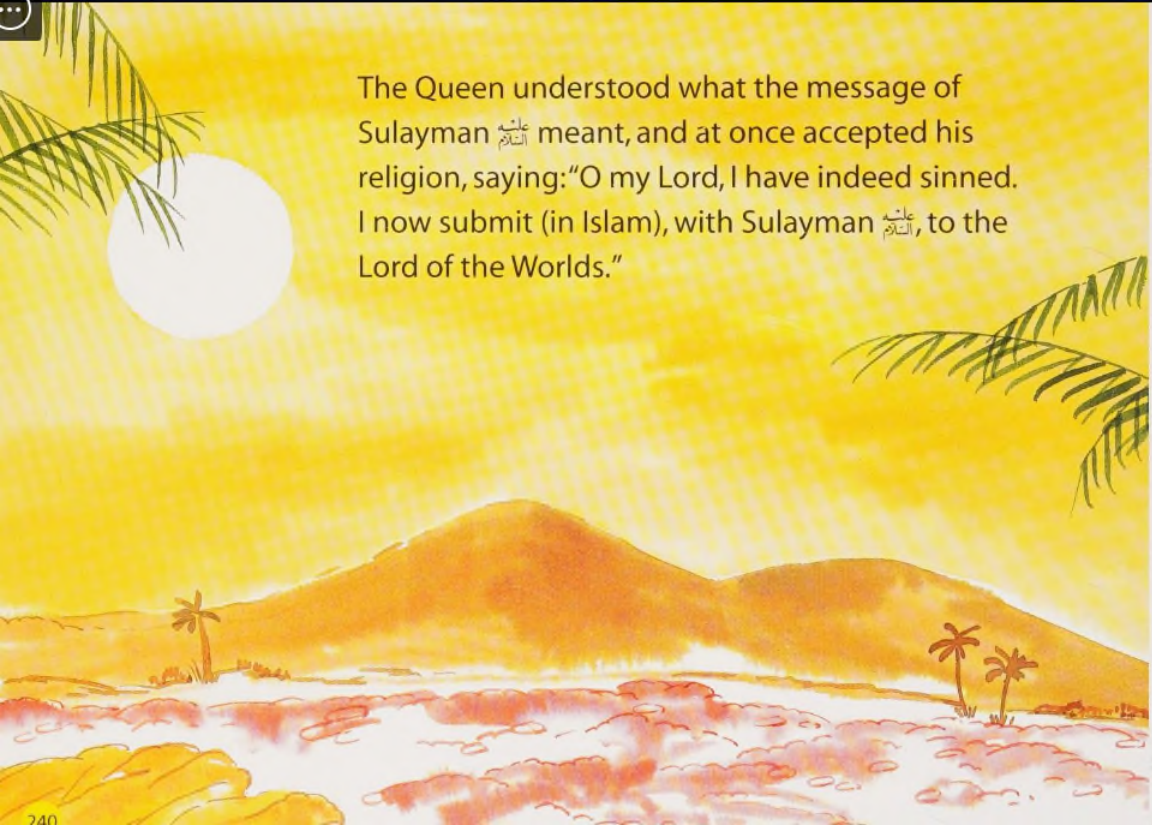


Sulayman عليه السلام ushered her in to his beautiful palace. When she walked across the floor, she tucked up her skirts, thinking it was a pool of water.

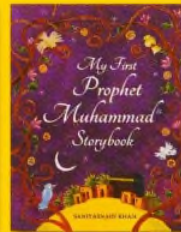
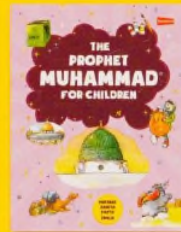
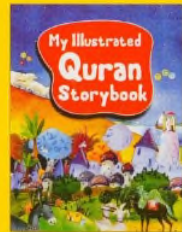




Sulayman عليه السلام stopped her, saying it was no pool of water, but a floor paved with glass beneath which water was flowing, giving it the look of something which it was not. Similarly, there was only one reality, and that was Allah—the Creator. Everything else was His creation. So the Queen should give up the worship of the sun and worship the One who had created everything.



The Queen understood what the message of Sulayman عليه السلام meant, and at once accepted his religion, saying: "O my Lord, I have indeed sinned. I now submit (in Islam), with Sulayman عليه السلام, to the Lord of the Worlds."



The author at the Islamic Arts Museum, Kuala Lumpur

Saniyasnain Khan is an Indian television host and children's author, with over 100 children's books to his credit. These are on subjects relating to Islam and a number of them have been translated into French, German, Spanish, Dutch, Danish, Polish, Bosnian, Russian, Turkish, Malay, Arabic, Urdu and other languages. He hopes that this timeless volume will be a true companion on the path of spiritual development, and will help children to know the true purpose and meaning of life.

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